

From: Brenda Bianchi

Sent: August 11, 2020 12:58 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Chair and Members of Committee responsible for Commonwealth Games

Hope you are all well.

I'm writing today as I've been following closely the discussion regarding Hamilton's interest in hosting the Commonwealth Games. I was once strongly supportive of having the games come back to Hamilton, but given where we are with the pandemic, and the strong possibility that covid-19 is nowhere near done with us yet, I'm no longer of the same mind.

I believe there are just too many areas where this money could be better spent in recovery from this virus, as well as maintaining and improving infrastructure in our city. I consider myself a forward-thinking citizen, and I understand completely how important tourism dollars are to a city such as ours and the added bonuses of citywide improvements we would be left with after the games are done, but I know there are just too many other areas in dire need of funds and attention.

Coupled with my opinion on the games, is my concern for the lack of affordable housing for many in our community that are and have been displaced by job loss due to physical and mental health issues, familial situations, etc. Unfortunately, this pandemic has and will continue to exacerbate an already tenuous situation for these vulnerable citizens and many more who fall victim to a broken system not equipped to handle those that fall through the cracks because of this virus and a myriad of other issues related to it.

How wonderful it could be to spend those monies on affordable housing instead of games that will be here today and gone tomorrow.

I am a parishioner of St Patrick's Parish here in the lower city, and also a financial supporter and booster of Father Tony's active vision of feeding the hungry every day, 365 days a year, (which he and a faithful group of volunteers managed beautifully!). Seeing the numbers increase steadily as they have over this past year and especially the last few months, and witnessing whole families with babies and children lining up for food and obviously needing other assistance, has sent me to bed sleepless on many a night... especially in a colder months.

I love my city, I care about my neighbour, and I'm seeing an increasingly darker, desperate side to this city. That leaves me hoping that the powers that be will recognize the need for responsible leadership without turning a blind eye from the people who need help the most.

Please take these thoughts into consideration when discussing these Games!

Stay Well!

Kind Regards,

Brenda Bianchi
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