

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Climate Declaration

From: Valerie Cousens

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:50 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Hello,

After receiving an email from Environment Hamilton about this I sent the email below which outlines some of my concerns to my Ward 1 Councillor and the Mayor. I was advised to also submit my correspondence to the Office of the City Clerk who will be able to add my correspondence to an upcoming Committee of Council agenda. To ensure that my correspondence is received by all members of Council who will be able to discuss the matter and determine an appropriate course of action to address my concerns.

Mayor and Members of Council,

"WHEREAS, Hamilton has declared a Climate Emergency recognizing that Climate Change is the single largest threat to municipalities across the world and urgent action is needed".

Not only is this assertion 100% true in that climate change is in fact the single largest threat to municipalities (even more than the pandemic), this assertion was agreed upon unanimously by Council in the referenced Climate Emergency declaration.

But I have heard that unfortunately the Public Works Committee voted to amend the motion and removed this wording at the insistence of Councillor Ferguson who argued that climate change is not the single largest threat to municipalities anymore and that he did not want to confuse City Staff or the public by leading them to believe that the city still considers climate change to be as important to them as it was before. IT STILL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE NEED TO ADDRESS ON THIS PLANET, when will Hamilton catch up to the needs of our times? Councillor Ferguson is confused and a bigger threat to this City than any emergency.

I sat in Council chambers and watched as you received our accolades for finally making this declaration. I ask that you keep the promises you made, the climate situation has not changed.

This decision by Public Works still needs to be ratified by the entirety of City Council, please recognize that the unique and overwhelming threat that climate change poses to Hamilton is not going away - COVID-19 does not change this. It is vital that our elected leaders in this trying time remain committed to action on the climate emergency, climate change is still the single largest threat to municipalities and council must stick to the commitment they made to all of us to respond to this threat. We all need you to do your job of keeping this City safe for everyone, this is not an issue to be dealt with later, it is an emergency NOW.

regards,
Valerie