

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Mayor and Members of Council. Written comments for upcoming General Issues Committee re: Cycling Committee amended motion

From: Weather Magnet

Sent: October 8, 2020 9:21 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Mayor and Members of Council. Written comments for upcoming General Issues Committee re: Cycling Committee amended motion

To Hamilton's Mayor and Members of Council,

I'm weighing in on this developing news story where I have learned that under the influence of Councillor Ferguson, the Public Works committee has ratified a motion which amends the proposed motion from the Cycling Committee. The ratified amendment removes the FIRST PREMISE of the motion, which simply states the already ratified position of our city council, namely, that Hamilton acknowledges we are in a **climate emergency**.

Councillor Ferguson is entitled to his opinion, but he has no authority to undermine the decision and direction Council has already taken to set priorities in its Climate Emergency Declaration. This is a blatant action to water down the language and the context of the motion, which will serve to lessen the urgency of any changes suggested by the Cycling Infrastructure Committee.

Shame, Shame! This is another attempt to dampen the message and disempower an advisory committee by pushing the "easy button." The fact of our climate emergency is the **very reason** that cycling infrastructure changes need to be given more consideration than ever, and yet by removing the emergency, **Ferguson's amended motion will serve to dismiss the committee in one easy step and just push its recommendations down the road.**

I disapprove entirely. This motion deserves to be called out as flawed, and the removed clause put back in place before going to final vote, not just voted through "as is" like the Public Works committee is hoping.

I trust that when this comes to General Council, you will not support the amended motion. The amendment has removed the urgency of the climate emergency.

I trust you will argue for the continued acknowledgement, **in writing, of the Climate Emergency** we are now in, which should be in the mind of everyone in the city, especially our elected leaders.

We must together be open to what the Cycling Infrastructure Committee recommends, and we must give it the priority it deserves as a key component of our Hamilton Climate Emergency plan!

Thank-you,
Glen Brown
Ward 4