

4.9 (d)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Does Council still consider climate change an emergency?

From: **Hibbert Briscoe**

Date: Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 9:40 PM

Subject: Fwd: Does Council still consider climate change an emergency?

To: <tom.jackson@hamilton.ca>, <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Hello Ladies & Gentlemen;

Now is the moment to make Hamilton the manufacturing epicentre it once was, as minds turn to made in Ontario.

Our City is filled with (and can attract more) talented workers and manufacturing facilities. We only need to grease the gears and put them in motion again.

Renewable Energy Infrastructure Projects will need our steel windmills and turbines. Seamstresses are available for clothing and other fabrication. Regional farmers and food processors can increase their output to meet a renewed Canadian demand in healthy, safe, local food.

We should never dream to be Toronto. We are unique, as we are an engine that can make the Province move again. Torontonians are quickly learning they can comfortably telecommute from Hamilton and enjoy our trails, waterfront, restaurants, and each other once a days' work is done.

Let us attract business and people. Let us build up and conserve what lies out. Weekend trips to vineland, family farms, Niagara Falls, and old friends' homes are a leisurely pursuit of priceless beauty that breathes life into city living.

This is our moment. Let us hold our heads with pride and spend our time shaking willing hands, to usher in a new age for Hamilton.

The Climate Crisis is the single largest threat to Municipalities, as our local level of government is often left scrambling to cover trickle down debt by taxing a residential base already under pressure. One need only turn to the Insurance Industry to see where we are headed.

Let us grab this opportunity for Hamilton before it passes. If we can employ the majority of our residents for the foreseeable future, in good paying skilled jobs, it is less likely that they will mind short term increased property taxes to cover increased Municipal service expenses.

Covid-19 also presents us with an opportunity to employ those willing to tackle outdoor (socially distanced) projects for the betterment of the city. Travelling past a finished project, your hands helped to build, can leave one with a sense of accomplishment. I can think of few things better during a dark time than engaging and empowering residents in such a way.

For youth, perhaps a city wide graffiti removal project and education campaign. Those who make these ugly tags around the city truly believe they are making an impact. They certainly are, just not the ones they intended.

Thank you so much for responding, Tom. If you believe in my words, I will entrust you to forward them along to the Mayor, and such. They have been laid down here for you and your Assistants (hello Ladies) to review, I desire no more credit than a comment such as "a resident in my ward."

Hibbert "Fawn" Briscoe

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ian Borsuk**

Date: Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:36 AM

Subject: Does Council still consider climate change an emergency?

To: Hibbs Briscoe

Hibbs --

Earlier this week Hamilton's Public Works committee received a very welcome [proposed motion](#) from the Hamilton Cycling Committee with regards to bike lanes in the city. The motion included the wording "***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.

Unfortunately 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.

This decision by Public Works still needs to be ratified by the entirety of City Council, please email [the Mayor](#) and [your Councillor](#) and tell them that you need them to 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. Please tell the Mayor and your Councillor that climate change is still the single largest threat to municipalities, and that they must not walk back from their commitment they made to all of us to respond to this threat.

Thank you,

Ian Borsuk, Climate Campaign Coordinator

[Environment Hamilton](#)