

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Next GIC - correspondence

From: Craig Burley

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:53 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Re: Next GIC - correspondence

Dear Clerk, please add this as a second item of correspondence for the next GIC meeting and please attach the news story attached as a pdf to the correspondence (please do the same with the last item in case it was not clear, thank you)

Dear Members of the General Issues Committee,

Regarding my previous correspondence on Councillor Whitehead's endless campaign of lies about homelessness and our City's response to it, I attach another story regarding an ongoing encampment of homeless persons in Northern Ontario, again on the grounds of a City Hall, this one in North Bay. This story is available at <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/homeless-tents-at-city-hall-a-bad-sign-that-the-homeless-population-is-growing-2748823>.

I refer to my earlier letter. Councillor Whitehead's crude lies and deliberate attempts to deceive this Committee are deplorable and should be met with censure.

With thanks and regards,

Craig Burley

On Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:43 AM Craig Burley wrote:

Dear Clerk,

Please add this to the agenda for the next General Issues Committee.

Dear Members of the General Issues Committee,

On October 7, 2020, during debate on an item before this Committee, Councillor Whitehead stated that there are no encampments of homeless people in Northern Ontario communities.

This of course was a crude lie. I attach the Sudbury Star's September 28 story about an ongoing encampment on the grounds of Sudbury City Hall. The story is available at <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/city-hall-encampment-draws-attention-to-homelessness>

The continual practice of Councillor Whitehead of making misrepresentations to this committee is tiresome and deplorable. The need for the public to continually correct his misrepresentations is an imposition of an unfair burden upon us. I ask that the Committee please censure Clr. Whitehead for his attempts at deliberate deception of the Committee, in furtherance of his continued attacks on homeless persons in our community.

Sincerely and with thanks,

Craig Burley

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Craig Burley
Barrister & Solicitor

Homeless tents at city hall a bad sign that the homeless population is growing

Sep 28, 2020 4:00 PM By: [Chris Dawson](#)



Photo courtesy Stu Campaigne/BayToday

The homeless situation in North Bay took a unique turn this weekend when tents were popping up in and around North Bay City Hall.

It's symbolic of a growing problem in the Gateway City.

Dave Mendicino is the chair of Nipissing District Housing Corporation and a board member with the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB).

He's upset to find out one particular person camped in front of city hall got a free bus ticket from her Toronto area social worker to come to North Bay.

"You have the city and all these agencies doing such great work, along with the province; we are all working together and we are all working hard to address the complex needs of these individuals in our district. But the keywords here are 'in our district,'" stated Mendicino.

Shane Moyer, a homeless advocate who is now homeless himself claims the growing homeless population is up to 120 at last count.

See related: [Homeless pitch tents City Hall's front yard to advocate for change](#)

Dennis Chippa, Executive Director of the Gathering Place soup kitchen, is not surprised at those numbers and he has seen new people arriving and needing free meals.

"Our numbers are incredibly high already and I'd say within the past 10 days we have seen a dozen new faces with five new ones just today," Chippa told BayToday Monday afternoon.

The low barrier shelter at Pete Palangio arena was closed in August and replaced currently by a 12-bed low barrier shelter on Chippewa Street. As well, a new 16-bed transitional housing facility next to the low barrier shelter is not open yet.

Mendicino admits that they need to find more solutions but adding to the population from outside the district is not one of them.

"We are being proactive in dealing with this," he said.

"The Mayor's roundtable is an example of that. When a social worker from southern Ontario gives a client a one-way ticket to North Bay and ends up at our city hall that's not right. How did that social worker do what's best for her client?"



***About the Author:* Chris Dawson**

Chris Dawson has been with BayToday.ca since 2004. He has provided up-to-the-minute sports coverage and has become a key member of the BayToday news team.

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