

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Policy

From: Robert Burke

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 11:31 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Policy

Dear Hamilton City Council.

Political decision-making has to rest on personal judgment, there is no scientific manual to tell you what to do . Scientists are likely not well suited to making the wholistic decision you are faced with either. They want facts to speak for themselves. That is wishful thinking: facts alone cannot tell us what to do. Expecting the evidence to point the way does not reduce the arbitrariness of the outcome. All political choices are arbitrary to a degree. Using statistics to justify difficult decisions just makes them appear more arbitrary for anyone who happens to disagree.

The basic facts are that the coronavirus is not fatal to 99.997 per cent of people under the age of 65, and not fatal to 94.6 per cent of people above the age of 65. Yet you allow Public Health unit's input to result in a 100% guarantee of a Hamilton tragedy by using blanket policies and restrictions in our already economically fragile city.

The question here is: who gets to speak on behalf of whom? You are certainly not speaking for a large section of our population, those that cannot vote. Our youth, and frankly any relatively healthy person under 65 years of age, they are being heavily damaged by your behaviour. These people are the very individuals our elderly rely on for care and resources. Families are being destroyed, businesses and their employees destroyed, future generations burdened with debt that will surely deprive them of the largesse that our generation enjoyed and for what purpose exactly?

I marvel that after all of this time and good data, you continue to sledgehammer our citizens instead of using our precious resources to shield our most vulnerable citizens, and create regulations to solely protect individuals mostly older than than the standard retirement age and who are most likely to be out of the workforce.

Hiding behind science to legitimize your actions is a mistake. Ultimately, you are charged with the responsibility of making balanced decisions and you are failing miserably at that. Unfortunately, besides the immediate deaths your actions are causing, when all is said and done, you will be leaving behind a great deal of debris and future hardships. Enjoy your retirement when it comes.

I am not an anti mask, covid denying anti vaxer (or whatever bully label you wish to put on me). I am a citizen.

You must gain the courage to lead.

Sincerely
Robert Burke