

**From:** [Emmali Branton](#)  
**To:** [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#)  
**Subject:** Deeply Ashamed of my City Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:16:50 PM  
**Date:**

---

To Mayor Eisenberger, Councillor Vanderbeek, and the Hamilton Police Board:

I am ashamed of my city this week. I grew up in Dundas and Hamilton and understood this to be a welcoming and diverse community for all. However, the collective actions of the Mayor, City Council, and the Hamilton Police this week and throughout 2020 have proved to me that my understanding was flawed.

You are showing the people of Canada that this is a city that is only welcoming if you are white, able-bodied, and a homeowner. This is a city that will eject, dehumanize, and neglect you if you do not fit into these categories. This is not a narrative DefundHPS, Black Lives Matter, or any other protest organization has had to put forth; you, the people in power, have done this all on your own.

To quote from the City of Hamilton's website:

*The City's vision "To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully" reflects the kind of city Hamiltonians want to aspire to become... It means having an inclusive community, actively engaged in making Hamilton a better place for everyone.*

Ignoring protestors, removing their agency, and taking down their tents goes directly against these values. You have failed us, and you have hurt us. You have prioritized bylaws over the objective safety and security of the people of Hamilton. You have prioritized surface-level media releases over accountability.

As a young, white woman, I had some bias; the idea of defunding the police was at first frightening to me. Who would keep us safe? Who would watch over the community? But it's become clear to me that it is not the police who fulfill these roles. The organizers and action-takers of the city are the ones looking out for the people. The police are the ones tearing down their protection.

The government and the police, above all, serve the people. You have let down your people time and time again. It is time to be held accountable. It is time for change. And it is time to make good on your "vision".

As a resident of Hamilton, I demand that you:

- 1. Defund the Hamilton police.**
- 2. Invest tax dollars that would have gone to the police towards initiatives fighting against food insecurity, racism, and towards more affordable housing & other social services.**
- 3. Stop ticketing houseless people from existing in public.**

Mayor Eisenberger: What are your plans to deal with the housing crisis? **How are you planning on preventing houseless people in Hamilton from dying this winter?**

Sincerely.

Emmali Branton