

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Meet with the protesters, end homelessness, and defund the police

From: Alexandra Weinberger

Sent: November 26, 2020 5:32 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Re: Meet with the protesters, end homelessness, and defund the police

Mayor Eisenberger,

Despite being assured by your office this morning that you and the City Manager would be meeting with the protesters today (that you needed time to do it safely), that has not happened.

I have been told you offered them a virtual meeting. While we are in a pandemic, and that is very acceptable for many of your constituents or business lobbies, it is unreasonable for under-housed folks to be expected to only meet with you virtually. Folks who are underhoused are unlikely to have access to the technology, power, and internet speeds needed to be able to facilitate such a meeting. No one should be conducting in-person indoor meetings right now, however you are in the City Hall building and they are outside, masked and distanced. You could safely mask up and meet them outside as well. A quick look at your Instagram shows that you met outside, masked (at far less than 6 feet, I might add!) to cut the ribbon at Beckett Fine Art. If you can meet people in person outside for PR, you can meet with the protesters outside to protect our citizens.

Further, in the paperwork to the protesters indicating their tents will be removed you cite the importance of public health. I am 100% in agreement that the public health is of paramount importance. If public health were truly important to you, you would be rushing to solve the homelessness problem we have in this city. You would also allow the protesters and underhoused folks to use public property for their shelters in the interim.

Speaking of Public Health, I'm curious if your staff is working from home currently. I forgot to ask when I spoke with James today. I sure hope they are. It's for their safety and the public health.

I look forward to your reply.

Warmly,
Alex

On Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 8:08 PM Alexandra wrote:

Mayor Eisenberger,

I just left you another message. I was told by your staff that you hadn't met with the protesters since you were in council, but since council is over and you still haven't, I am following up.

Once again, I would urge you to follow the leadership of Councilor Nann and commit to reallocating police surplus and finding other sources of money to care for the homeless and under housed in our city.

Thank you, Councillor Nann for speaking up and showering the leadership and caring we should expect from our mayor.

Mayor Eisenberger, I look forward to hearing your support for Councillor Nann's forthcoming motion and your plans to keep all Hamiltonians safely sheltered this winter.

Warmly,
Alex

Alexandra Weinberger (she/her)

On Nov 25, 2020, at 16:36, Alexandra Weinberger wrote:

Mayor Eisenberger,

I called your office to inquire as to why you have not met with the protestors out in front of City Hall. I was told you were in Council.

Perhaps you do not put in the same long days of hard work as Councillor Nann, but she managed to update her constituents prior to the start of the Council meeting this morning - I'm disappointed you did not use that same time to meet with them. And even if you had a busy morning, you also had plenty of opportunities before today.

Please stop making excuses and meet with your constituents. It is completely unacceptable that anyone in this city remain unhoused, and that the city takes any action against anyone who sets up a camp outside (or the protestors for that matter).

There is a police surplus that can be used to house members of our community; we can defund the police to free up funds for it, and Councillor Nann has put forward a proposal for an immediate three-level government solution for Hamilton. I am 100% in support of this plan and as your constituent I hope you are too.

I voted for you as Mayor and you have been nothing but a disappointment. Rob Ford was my Mayor for 4 years, so it takes a lot to disappoint me.

You have an opportunity to redeem yourself here and perhaps earn back my support. I implore you to take action, to speak to the protestors, and to support Councillor Nann's plan. She has been a fierce leader in this trying time, and you would do well to follow her leadership.

Warmly,
Alexandra Weinberger
Ward 3 Resident