

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Arrests at City Hall

From: Ani Chenier

Sent: December 2, 2020 9:03 PM

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

Subject: Arrests at City Hall

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to express my dismay at tonight's arrest of peaceful protesters at City Hall, and my hope that you will choose to publicly meet and engage with this group.

The calls for police and housing reforms made by this group resonate with many residents, across the City. Housing costs have risen dramatically in Hamilton over the past ten years, displacing many, and making many homeless or housing insecure. Investment in social services lags far behind need. We are in crisis.

Defund HPS protesters are working hard to foreground the needs of under-housed residents of the city, and of residents who do not feel respected and protected by our City's police. Authorities have shown more aggression towards this group than towards many of the other groups who protest in the City, and have made aggressive use of public health and other bylaws to silence them. This attitude is highly concerning.

I urge you to encourage the HPS to respect this peaceful protest and allow it to continue unimpeded.

And I urge you to speak with the protesters, safely and publicly, to work towards solutions for the current crisis.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Ani Chénier
Ward 2 Resident