

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Coffins and related events.

From: Geoff Ball

Sent: December 3, 2020 8:03 PM

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

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Coffins and related events.

Hi Mayor Eisenberger,

I just wanted to thank you for showing your true colours around recent events in and around city hall.

I've seen the news, and the coffin, and your horrendous response illustrating how removed you are from the reality of the difficulties experienced by the most vulnerable people in the city you are presumed to be leading. The issue of homeless people dying was brought to your doorstep and you perceived a threat? Your distance, and the resulting privileged discomfort, are not more valuable than the lives of the people who struggle in this city! I've learned that you have a budget surplus in policing, yet are looking to increase the budget for them while citizens of your city huddle and freeze in tents (those whose tents weren't thrown in the garbage, at least), and not just those at city hall. And apparently you also sit on the Police Services Board; forgive me if I do not have faith in your ability to be at all impartial in the matter of reallocating some of the money they obviously don't need to aid those who do.

This is not an optics problem, it is a compassion problem, and since you have shown no interest in being part of the solution, as far as I'm concerned you have no business being the mayor of Hamilton any more.

I will now be joining any viable campaign to have you removed from office, and if it must wait for the next election cycle, I will be actively campaigning for any opponent who does not see homeless people in this city - now of all times - as an inconvenience to be ticketed and forcibly removed; who refuses to engage with the people on the ground spending their time and energy to help the people whose well-being are your responsibility, but apparently not your problem; who through his actions (and inactions) has shown that racist protesters are just fine to have hanging around city hall for weeks, but citizens demanding safe housing for vulnerable people are ticketed; who believes that police budgets are more important than the people the police are meant to serve: the citizens of this city.

Sincerely,
Geoff Ball