

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund Police/HomelessnessProtesters

From: Michael Moniz

Sent: December 4, 2020 10:33 AM

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

Subject: Defund Police/HomelessnessProtesters

As a life long Hamiltonian, born and raised here, I would like to register my disgust with your inability to PUBLICLY meet with the protesters at city hall. Even more so, the lack of compassion in throwing their belongings and tents into garbage trucks as winter sets in, borders on inhumane. Then to compound it by publicly stating on CHML during an interview you couldn't think of one death as a result of homelessness in our city was beyond the pale. As Mayor, I would expect you or any mayor to attempt to learn about the true plight and history of our marginalized communities and residents, not make dismissive claims and statements. Temporary shelters are not housing. People HAVE died and will die of homelessness under the status quo.

Bloated and growing police budgets are no longer acceptable, not just because of the economics, but also morally when those funds could be better used in the community to truly help prevent/reduce crime. Policing is important and is still required but policing is not above criticism when warranted, which you seem to be unable or unwilling to do. What appears to be your constant knee-jerk defense of the police whenever residents bring up concerns, makes us wonder who do you think you answer to; residents or the police service? A wholesale rethink needs to take place and your inability to even look critically at what Defund The Police is asking, to look beyond the slogan, to PUBLICLY meet with them, to my mind, shows such a profound lack of leadership, it's startling.

Add this situation to the long list of situations that have gone on in this city under your watch, and I'd like to say my faith in your ability to lead has evaporated. I'm not angry as much as I'm saddened that you have and continually fail us as residents and as a city.

Mine may be just one opinion, which you have every right to ignore, but it's one that's shared among many in our city, and it's an opinion that's growing more and more. Feel free to take these criticisms to heart and try to see our points of view, or continue to ignore us. The choice, as always, is yours.

Regretfully

Michael Moniz

Winona