

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Hi!

**From:** Katie King

**Sent:** December 6, 2020 8:41 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Hi!

Hi!

I was wondering if this could be read at the next city council meeting? I wrote this piece about Freedom Camp. Thank you in advance:

Do you think we are sitting out front City Hall for fun? Do you think this is what we want to do with our youth? To skip out on work to be away from our family to stay up all night to cry for our City to understand what we need? To cry for our Mayor to pay attention to us? We don't want to get sick, we don't want to be cold, we don't want this. **But we don't know how else to tell you what we need.** Yes we play music yes we dance yes we feed each other yes we make art and share words and look at each other meaningfully or sadly or proudly or thankfully or nervously trying to understand each other through the space between our toques and our masks. But we don't want this. Know that we don't want this.

If we switch the narrative, since our demands have gone unheard - this is us communicating our needs in a relationship. The relationship is Us and the City. This is what we need. Please. We need less money put towards Hamilton Police Services and more money for free public housing. It's okay. It will be okay if we make this change. It might feel weird at first but it will be better. It's not fair that the Mayor has control over the City and the Hamilton Police. Yes, I know that he is the chair of the Police Board. We are here because this is not fair. Believe me! We are not here for a laugh. This is not for fun. This is serious. Many crises are colliding, a housing crisis and an opioid crisis and police that do not keep us safe. Except the last one has always been a crisis for BIPOC folks. Do you know why the police force was created? To protect property. To protect white folks property from black folks. Hamilton needs to listen to us. **We aren't radical youth. We are reasonable youth. This is reasonable. Free housing is reasonable.** It is reasonable to want people to feel safe, to be dry, and to have somewhere warm to sleep. It is reasonable to take money away from an institution that scares us. We aren't radical youth. We are youth that see the world in a way that prioritizes care. We need to house folks and take away money from an institution that hurts us. We are a community and I will not stand for my community feeling unsafe. Enough is enough. Please use your power to ask the Mayor to meet with Defund HPS Coalition and to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Katharine (Katie) King  
Ward 3