

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Yellow Vest and increasing hate group activity.

From: Anastacia Dickerson

Date: June 10, 2019 at 2:04:27 PM EDT

To: "Merulla, Sam" <sam.merulla@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Yellow Vest and increasing hate group activity.

Every Saturday we pass the groups in front of city hall, and last week I noticed a marked increase in numbers as well as a rise in harassment of those seeking to pass the group on the street.

I would like to ask how long is Hamilton city going to allow the presence of hate groups to dominate our public access? By hate groups, I speak of the following; Yellow Vests, Soldiers of Odin, Proud Boys, and the Canadian Nationalist Party. All of which were present last week in an effort to ramp up hate rhetoric in our city and compromise the safety and wellbeing of city residents. To effect, I am very wary about the safety of attending the following Gage Park events this year; Hamilton Pride, the 20th Annual Aboriginal Day Festival as well as the Festival of Friends, that the presence of these groups will also be in attendance.

To quote Karl Popper, *"Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them."* In a nutshell, in order to maintain a tolerance society, we must first be intolerant of intolerance.

Respectfully, I request Hamilton city council and law enforcement coordinate efforts in ousting these groups from our city at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you and best,

Anastacia Dickerson