

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Response to Yellow Vest Attack at Hamilton Pride 2019

From: Sally Cooper **Sent:** June 25, 2019 2:09 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Response to Yellow Vest Attack at Hamilton Pride 2019

Dear Mayor Eisenburger

Your inaction in response to the Yellow Vest attacks at Pride 2019 disturbs me. It concerns me that my LGBTQ neighbours and friends have come away from PRIDE feeling that the city and the police will not protect them from hate groups and violent attacks.

It is outrageous that a queer supporter (who wasn't even at Gage Park for Pride) was the first person to be arrested in connection with the incident, while the anti-LGBTQ haters went free and continued their hateful tirade in Toronto this past weekend. It offends me that these hate-groups have publicly lauded the police for taking no action against them, confident that police are on their side.

I do not support your silence and inaction. It sends a message to Hamilton residents that far-right fascist extremism is tolerated if not welcome in our city. I fear that my queer friends will suffer injury and hate crimes and even incarceration. It disgusts me that these violent individuals, the Yellow Vests, with their fascist agendas, remain free. Our youth especially should not have to feel unsafe. Nobody should.

I ask that you speak out against the attacks. And I ask that you and the police take concrete actions to make it clear to these fascists that their presence is not welcome in Hamilton. It infuriates me that my queer friends no longer feel safe in their own city because the mayor and police are showing more support to right wing fascist homophobes than they are to peaceful citizens exercising their right to gather and celebrate.

Sincerely,

Sally Cooper