

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Pride

From: Emma Cole

Sent: June 25, 2019 12:59 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>;
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Subject: Hamilton Pride

Hello,

I'm writing to express my frustration and displeasure with the actions of the mayor, city council, and the Hamilton Police with regards to this year's Pride celebrations. Hamilton is not showing itself to be a place that is welcoming to all and free from discrimination when members of the LGBTQIA+ community are feeling angry, scared, and utterly unsupported by public servants who should be accommodating and protecting them. Hamilton police did not consult properly with members of Hamilton's Pride organizers in order to assess the risks and dangers that come from allowing homophobic and violent protestors to continue to spew vitriol and hatred at an event meant to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and LGBTQIA+ rights. In addition, the fact that the first person arrested in connection to these events is a queer person (one who was not even at the event) is alarming, and certainly leaves the impression that Hamilton's LGBTQIA+ community cannot consider the police allies.

I have been very disappointed in the Mayor's lack of support for Hamilton's queer community over this incident. As someone who wrote, "Hamilton will continue to offer a refuge and a home to all those who seek safety and freedom from violence, persecution and discrimination," it is especially disheartening to see a lack of compassion and care from Mayor Eisenberger.

There is no place for anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment in this city, the mayor's office, city council, or the police service. I urge you all to step up and speak up to let hateful anti-LGBTQIA+ groups know that there is no place for them in Hamilton, in Ontario, in Canada. As a queer ally and eligible voter, I will be watching your responses closely and hope you can take concrete steps to rectify this situation and repair the relationship with the queer community and Pride organizers in Hamilton.

Thank you for your time.

Emma Cole