

Pilon, Janet

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Correspondence for June 26 Council

Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors,

On behalf of the Hamilton and District Labour Council, I want to express our shock and outrage that the General Issues Committee would vote to tear up a 14-year-old collective agreement with the Carpenters' Union. On balance, this has been a collaborative relationship that has benefitted both the City of Hamilton and the workers that call Hamilton home.

That Councillors would vote in support of ripping up any collective agreement, and to use Premier Doug Ford as their excuse, flies in the face of the many positive public statements that the Mayor and many members of this Council have made in support of organized labour.

In a race to the bottom, it is workers health and safety, and community building efforts such as apprenticeships and equity programs that are first to go. The negative social costs that will occur through ripping up this collective agreement are not worth the costs.

It is bad enough, as an employer, to not use unionized labour or actively prevent the use of unionized labour.

Worst of all, however, is to take a signed commitment made by the City of Hamilton and tear it up in the faces of workers who have brought quality and dedication to the builds in this city.

What trust can we have in future Hamilton contracts and agreements if this one is so easily discarded.

We should be better than this. We should look to strengthen relationships that give Hamiltonians the best value builds for the money and not frivolously squander the safety of workers and our citizens for a few percentage points.

We should be proud to pay for the best value builds where our Hamilton workers go home safe.

It is not too late to reconsider and reverse Committee's decision. Vote to uphold Hamilton's values and your labour agreement with the Carpenters' Union.

With Regards,

Anthony Marco
President, Hamilton and District Labour Council