

February 8th, 2021

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council

My name is Stephanie Brash. I am a proud member of Hamilton ACORN (Mountain Chapter). I am also a founding member of 14 for Progress, a group of Ward 14 residents organizing for progressive change on Hamilton's West Mountain and throughout the City of Hamilton.

ACORN Hamilton is part of the Just Recovery Hamilton Collective - a group of dedicated, passionate and progressive social organizations – which has put forth a list of 152 recommendations for your immediate consideration. ACORN Hamilton and 14 for Progress support each and every one of these recommendations. Today, I will speak directly to those recommendations regarding the housing crisis and tenant vulnerability.

Hamilton is in a housing crisis. The growing unhoused population and the increasing number of households spending upwards of 50% of their income on housing is unacceptable. The position of privilege that I occupy has afforded me the “luxury” of being able to pay my rent (albeit barely), but I cannot stand idly by as my neighbours face substandard living conditions or the decision of whether to feed their children or pay their rent. This cannot stand in a city which strives “to be the best place to raise a child and age successfully”

Renovictions are rampant, as predatory landlords capitalize on inadequate regulations, further marginalizing our city's most vulnerable citizens. I am calling on you today to commit to:

- Urging the province to suspend eviction enforcement, hearings and orders until the province has entered the post-pandemic recovery period and immediately bring in rent relief.
- Using all of the city's regulatory powers to protect tenants from predatory renoviction practices and save Hamilton's affordable housing stock.
- Make a deeper municipal capital budget investment in housing first placements to end homelessness.

As you deliberate on the City of Hamilton 2021 Budget, I am grateful for the opportunity that Public Delegation day affords constituents. A city's budget speaks volumes to what, and who, those in power care about. I stand (virtually) before you today and ask - what, and who, do you care about?

Sincerely,

Stephanie Brash