

To: City of Hamilton – City Hall
Re: Clerk's Desk
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
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(905) 546-2489
clerk@hamilton.ca

From: Michelle Hawrylyshyn
Hamilton, Ontario

Dear Mayor Eisenburger and City of Hamilton Council,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen in regards to the city of Hamilton Council Members voting in favor of proceeding with the decision of taking the coalition of workers who secured an injunction to stop the city from dismantling and disbursing the encampments on Ferguson, in front of the First Ontario Centre, and elsewhere, to court for the purpose of fighting the injunction. I encourage city council members to take this precious time and not spend it in court, but rather spend this time in coordinating efforts with the housing, health, and mental health programs in place throughout the city of Hamilton to develop a viable plan to assist the individuals living in the encampments. The encampments are a way for workers on the frontlines to address the basic needs that the individuals in the encampments require and deserve. Disbursing these campsites will make it even more difficult for front line workers to assist those living in the encampments as they can become much harder to locate if disbursed.

As a concerned citizen, I do not believe that taking this matter to court and fighting the injunction will resort to any long-term success for any of the individuals who are effected the most by lack of low-barrier and affordable housing in this municipality. Shelters are not an answer for all, as there are restrictions regarding substance use, behavioral concerns, and do not provide adequate alternatives for opposite sex couples and/or beloved pets. As a citizen of this municipality, I view the response from the City of Hamilton Council regarding the encampments as dehumanizing and inappropriate, thus far. The treatment of my fellow community members living in the encampments by the City of Hamilton is disheartening and embarrassing, as everyone within this municipality deserve adequate, resourceful, and respectful options in regards to their personal care and long-term success. By fighting this injunction, it appears that Council Members have prioritized the continuing oppression of homeless individuals in this city, instead of working towards a homeless-serving system that is not inheritably flawed.

Mr. Mayor and City of Hamilton Council members, I again ask you again reconsider the choice of proceeding with fighting the injunction that is aiding in the access to care to Hamilton's homeless population. I encourage the City of Hamilton to work cooperatively with healthcare and community-based programs to set up our homeless community members for success and finally provide low-barrier opportunities for homeless individuals to obtain a good quality of life.

Regards,

Michelle Hawrylyshyn