

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Emergency vote to end the encampment bylaw

From: Ani Chenier

Sent: August 10, 2021 11:23 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Emergency vote to end the encampment bylaw

Councillor Farr,

I was deeply saddened to learn, this morning, of last night's emergency council meeting, and of the motion to end the City's Encampment Protocol agreement, and perplexed at the secretive approach taken by the City. Why were organizations like Keeping Six, the Encampment Support Network, and the Shelter Health network work with and often include encampment residents, not consulted?

You say that there are good alternatives available for encampment residents. If that were the case, people would willingly choose to leave the encampments and avail themselves of these. It's not as if living outdoors and being forced to move every two weeks was anyone's ideal living arrangement. The fact is that we lack good alternatives for people who are homeless. Pushing people outside of public spaces endangers and marginalizes them, while doing nothing to address the underlying issues that got them there in the first place (including Hamilton's dearth of affordable housing; the state of penury imposed on ODSP and OW recipients).

I love Hamilton, but am ashamed, as a resident, of the course our city has taken in this regard. All residents deserve better than this!

Sincerely,

Ani Chénier
Ward 2 resident