

Pilon, Janet

Subject: It was unconscionable for the city to end the encampment protocol without consultation. What is the city's plan to protect the dignity of my neighbours?

From: Simon Lebrun

Sent: August 10, 2021 6:36 PM

To: Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; info@hesn.ca; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: It was unconscionable for the city to end the encampment protocol without consultation. What is the city's plan to protect the dignity of my neighbours?

Councillor Pauls,

I am a resident of Ward 7.

I am deeply disappointed by the news that city council met in a closed emergency session to unilaterally discontinue the encampment protocol, which I understand was reached in collaboration with doctors, lawyers, and advocates like Keeping Six and HAMSMaRT following a court injunction against the city.

I have come to understand that this city council and I will never agree on the right way forward on the issue of houselessness. I see that the majority of councillors do not agree that the right to exist with dignity is more important than rights to property or the need of uncritical people to feel a fictional, inward-gazing comfort at the expense of others. For this reason the termination of the encampment protocol by city council does not come as a surprise.

What is shocking and unconscionable is that it was done behind closed doors, apparently without even discussing the issue with the community advocates that -- to my experience in past year -- have been working harder and more effectively than the City in support of the health and safety of my neighbours in Hamilton.

In a CBC article today Wade Poziomka was quoted saying "I would think that if the city is going to make this decision unilaterally ... then they better have a plan in place that's going to make sure people are protected and not cause further trauma." Councillor Pauls, what is that plan?

Sincerely,
Simon Lebrun