

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment Evictions

From: Amber Boyle

Sent: August 11, 2021 12:12 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Encampment Evictions

I am writing in response to the decision made recently about returning to the pre-pandemic enforcement of camping bylaws.

There is an abundance of structural violence and trauma that is being not only showcased but encouraged.

Misinformation and stigma are only perpetuated when the privilege of making a decision is done without the input of the people being affected. Nobody is above anyone else. The people that are being affected by this are being given no voice and no tools to help themselves.

Taxpayer's dollars are being put into displacing people and I do not stand for this; I want my tax dollars paid to building affordable and accessible housing for all. Your decisions are creating more health problems for citizens that do not have the resources to access care; you are increasing expenses for city worker's salaries and in the healthcare sector without accountability.

Even though there are dollars set aside for housing solutions from the provincial and federal governments, those solutions are not ready to be enacted; furthermore, the money promised is not enough to fully support the population of people who need supportive housing. If there is an election before the 2022/2023 fiscal year, we will likely lose that money.

The pandemic has created situations where more and more people are facing evictions and homelessness; this is not a problem that is static but increasing. What are you going to do when displacement gets so out of hand that people are losing their lives at your doorstep?

If you are going to evict individuals from encampments, provide them with appropriate resources and access to housing instead of criminalizing them. It is important to me that you exercise compassion for the citizens of this city, regardless of their status or level of privilege. You are using your privilege to devalue and stigmatize people.

Your decisions are negatively impacting serious vulnerabilities that people are experiencing, such as addiction, housing insecurity, food insecurity, poverty, and violence. You have no plan to add into social services to strengthen our social safety net and improve citizen's chances of surviving your decisions. I do not stand with you or your council in making these decisions on my behalf. You do not have my support in the next election. I look forward to encouraging the voice of individuals who are going to fight for the dignity and worth of others, instead of using privilege to continue to displace vulnerable populations.

Sincerely enraged,

Amber C. Boyle