

HELLO TO THE A.C.P.D. MEMBERS, STAFF AND THE PUBLIC

I am happy to present to the Special A.C.P.D. Meeting in response to my 'porch patio/outdoor dining' concerns.

Susan J. Creer Chair Accessible Hamilton

September 24, 2021

An important note: Residents with 'disabled parking permits' are allowed to park up to three (3) hours at a metered parking space unless it is rush hour. This is due to folks with disabilities not being able to walk quickly because of a walker, cane, oxygen tank, etc.). There are City parking lots as well.




The 'porch patio' problem started in Westdale under former Ward 1 councilor Aidan Johnson so is not a 'pandemic' response as it has been touted in the media. This is the Snooty Fox restaurant in Westdale in June, 2019. Their patios blocked parking spaces at the bank when I needed to do some banking.



THE CHICKEN ROOST RESTAURANT SUMMER 2021

- The Chicken Roost on Main Street West Hamilton has a tent in their parking lot. I cannot tell if they are blocking the disabled parking spaces there.



CITY WORKING WITH BIA'S. I found out from other business owners in Westdale that only the 'old' village of Westdale is included in the BIA (Business Improvement Area). Not all the downtown Hamilton BIA's include all the local businesses either. 

Many other business owners in Westdale, downtown Hamilton, etc. are frustrated at having the metered parking spaces blocked due to this program which they are not part of. There are also City parking lots blocked by these selfish restaurant owners. In downtown Hamilton they have closed streets which is frustrating and dangerous.

Jean-Luc Mantel and his mom who is a health care worker dislike the roads being closed in downtown Hamilton especially as it affects them directly when she tries to find parking for work and finds the road closed on King William Street.

PORCH PATIOS ARE DANGEROUS.

The Argyle Restaurant on Ottawa St. has forced folks to go on a wooden sidewalk which is blocked with planters.

Argyle Restaurant Ottawa St. has a wooden sidewalk with planters on it which the visually impaired could trip on!



Argyle Restaurant has taken over the whole sidewalk and put a wooden sidewalk in. These wooden platforms can damage other cars as well as they try to park in those smaller parking spaces.



OTHERS WHO ARE CONCERNED!

I went to Westdale to do a silent protest in July, 2021 and many locals shared concerns about parking spaces being taken away.

I also called the Community Police office and Acting Sgt. Right said the HPS are annoyed with the road closures for it makes their job harder. Acting Sgt. Right also said the different departments at the City do not seem to talk to each other.

- A car accident lawyer I know wants to know about liability issues? If there is an accident on a patio could the City and the restaurant owner be charged?
- When I picked up my order from Little Caesars' (Sept. 22) I told the manager how I was advocating on this issue and she said "good, the squeaky wheel gets the grease"!
- Patios cause extra idling of traffic as they wait. Hamilton is in a "climate emergency" so the patio program should be cancelled as a contributor.
- I know the hospitality business has been badly hit by the pandemic. Restaurants can consider another business model such as take-out or delivery.

I am coming to the
end of my PPT
Presentation to
the ACPD (Sept.
24, 2021)
Susan Creer

I do hope the ACPD will agree to approach the City officials to stop the 'porch patio/outdoor dining' program.

Thank you for your time.

I know there will be a question time as well.

The 'porch patio' program started in my area when Aidan Johnson was Ward 1 councilor. Mr. Johnson frequently commented that his partner has a disability; I have always been most distressed and saddened when the 'porch patio' program started under his watch. It seemed that Mr. Johnson and the City seemed to be allowing only 'special' BIA restaurants to make money off the backs of the disabled by taking away needed metered parking spaces and City parking lots. What about the Cobblers, Fabric stores, Skate Shop Owners and other non-BIA restaurants in the locations affected by the knock-on effect of less metered street parking and City parking lots?