

4.11 (a)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampments

From: Kayla Crabtree
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:41 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Encampments

Hi,

I've worked on the front lines for 8+ years, turning people away from shelter isn't the newest issue. There has been many nights where the city is full and I've had to turn someone away to the streets - this has just become the norm.

With Covid 19 this crisis became exasperated. The city opened First Ontario to compensate for the closing of capacity in the men's sector. First Ontario went on to continually Service restrict many people for reasons that were a detriment to service users. Adults were being turned away for 72 hours plus for not being asleep by 10pm at night, two nights in a row. This was a strong contributor to folks being forced to sleep outside with no where to go, there simply was no space. As a front line worker is was insulting to listen time and time again to council continually stating to the media there was space, when they weren't working this crisis nor have any of you ever showed up to understand the work that's being done. Working in the men's sector you see complex mental health and substance use disorder. These clients have complex needs, and require a low barrier supportive housing model, these do not exist at a capacity they are required. Our housing market is incredibly unattainable to those on odsp and ow. Most options require being okay with a landlord that's abusive, infestations of mice/ rats, cockroach's and bedbugs. Just because you live on a low income, does not mean you should be subjected to health hazards and abusive environments. Without regulation from all levels of government, such as rent control, oversight to room houses etc - our housing crisis in Hamilton will continue to get worse. Shelters have become a catch all, and staff are not able to support the level of need all the time. This results in folks being left behind on the street.

I'm not offended by the encampments in my area, I have not been bothered by them as I take my children to the park. Encampment residents are my neighbours too, and when treated with respect, just the way I do with my housed neighbours - there aren't any issues. As far as those complaining about drug use - why do we cast judgement on those doing drugs in tents but not those doing drugs at home. As someone who is sober I'm exposed to substance use by my housed neighbours just in the same way I am with my tent neighbours. Villainizing low income folks for the same thing all neighbours are able to do is unacceptable.

I believe creating a safe space to camp may be the optimal solution this way council can hide the homelessness and continue to pretend it's not an extreme problem in Hamilton, and those who are actually experiencing these hard times can continue to be in a safe space with their community, follow up with their housing worker, and health care team.

Kayla Crabtree
Hamilton Resident

4.11(b)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation Submission for October 27th Council Agenda

From: Anne Dwyer

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:22 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; info@hesn.ca; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Delegation Submission for October 27th Council Agenda

My name is Anne Dwyer and I am a concerned citizen and resident of the city of Hamilton.

I am emailing in support of our houseless neighbours living in encampments throughout the city, as there continue to be no options available to them for affordable housing.

Safe and affordable housing should be available to all those that live in the city of Hamilton. Sadly, this is not the case and many of our houseless neighbours have no recourse but to live in encampments, and the criminalization of such encampments is inhumane. These are real people, our neighbours, and they cannot be cleared out, for the sake of the privileged few who are more concerned about aesthetics than prioritizing housing for those experiencing homelessness.

The city Hamilton has a responsibility to ensure that our houseless neighbours, their health and safety are made a priority, especially given the winter is fast approaching. As the weather gets colder, people are trying to prepare themselves for the cold season, and it is impossible to do that if they continue to be displaced. This is a matter of life and death and needs to be taken seriously and with their well being and humanity in mind.

The funds the City of Hamilton has used to remove my unhoused neighbours and their belongings through violent policing and policy are better used to provide people permanent housing.

As a constituent, my family and I demand that you and City Council stop removing people from parks with community funds. Hamilton Police and Municipal Law Enforcement continuously harass encampment residents and throw away their belongings.

Our houseless neighbours deserve autonomy and to be a part of the decision making that impacts their health, wellbeing, and lives.

The city of Hamilton/ city council need to do more and better, I am appealing to you to vote as though real people, human lives depend on it, because they do.

Sincerely - Concerned citizen,
Anne Dwyer

4.11(c)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Support for Encampment residents

From: Sarah Van Berkel

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:15 AM

To: Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>; Steve Lavell

Subject: Support for Encampment residents

Dear Councillor Merulla,

I am a member of your ward and disappointed in your support of council's decision to reverse pandemic protocol for housing encampments. We are facing a housing and opioid crisis, it's illogical to me that we are wasting resources on criminalizing poverty and houselessness instead of putting our resources towards known root causes. Policing encampments and destroying residents property puts already vulnerable people at risk and does nothing to address the reason's they are living there in the first place. Instead of more police and bylaw officers let's see more support for community led initiatives, public health outreach and housing supports. As a proud Hamiltonian, I frequent many parks around the city and have never been bothered by any encampment residents. Housed people need to check their privilege when calling the police on these residents who deserve as much support and respect as homeowners/renters.

Please include this submission in the Oct. 27th council agenda.

Thank-you,
Sarah Van Berkel

4.11(d)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampments

From: kaelyn koepke
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:12 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Encampments

Dear city councillors,

I am a ward 3 resident, registered midwife, home owner and parent. My children attend Prince of Wales school. I am proud to live in Hamilton. Growing up in Oakville I always felt out of sorts because it set a standard of wealth and status that was hard to live by. There was a lack of diversity and a preoccupation with appearances. I moved to Hamilton in 2005 in love with the visible socioeconomic diversity; that people aren't hidden beneath a facade of perfection.

I want to teach my children that all people deserve respect, that all people deserve compassion and dignity and that it is our collective responsibility to create justice and meet the needs of the members of our community. People who are houseless deserve this just as much and in fact need compassion and advocacy even more than others may. I support the encampments and implore my city officials to discuss ways to make them safer. Please stop these evictions. They are not making the problem of houselessness go away, they are simply moving the problem to another space and time. Please stop wasting tax dollars and resources on evictions and please stop supporting actions that treat members of our community without the respect and dignity they need and deserve. I am ashamed of the evictions that have happened and it makes me ashamed of Hamilton. We can do better. I am raising my children to do better.

Sincerely,
Kaelyn Koepke.
Ward 3 resident.

4.11(e)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Encampment Support

From: Christine Rigby

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:50 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Hamilton Encampment Support

Members of City Council,

I am writing because I have read excerpts from the delegations at the City of Hamilton Planning Committee that took place on October 19th and would like to share my opposing views. At this time, I would also like to request that my statement be included in the agenda for the upcoming Oct 27th meeting.

Regarding Hamilton's encampment evictions, it seems clear that we need a better solution. It should be evident at this stage that tearing down encampments has not resulted in any immediate or long-term benefits other than appeasing citizens who do not appreciate the presence of encampments in their neighborhoods

Those who support these evictions may not realize that encampment communities informally create safe spaces for the most vulnerable members of our population, who for one reason or another, cannot find or afford housing. These individuals are people and should have the same claims to basic human rights as their housed neighbors. If the city has been unable to provide adequate accommodations thus far, then I would argue that the encampments are not the problem, but rather it is a failed municipal system that perpetuates this crisis.

With winter fast approaching I am extremely concerned for our houseless population. I would like to know how the city intends to support these individuals and keep them safe without repeating a cycle that has proven unsuccessful in the past. I would like to challenge the city to explore the benefits of alternative actions such as advocating for basic income programs, increasing social services, as well as increasing affordable housing programs.

Sincerely,
Christine Rigby

Freedom from discrimination is the right of all people.
We should strive to see that everyone in our community is treated with fairness and equality.

4.11(9)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Contestation - City of Hamilton Planning Committee Meeting

From: Elia Hamelin
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:47 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Contestation - City of Hamilton Planning Committee Meeting

To whom it may concern,

My name is Elia Hamelin and I am writing to contest the delegations delivered at the October 19th City of Hamilton Planning Committee Meeting and to express my support for my neighbours and fellow Hamiltonians that currently reside in encampments in my area and around the city. **I would like this submission included in the agenda for the council meeting on October 27th.** I was disgusted to read about the lack of empathy that constituents and business owners in the city expressed while speaking about the encampment residents in the city. I am disgusted at how Councillor Jason Farr continues to use his platform to perpetuate the idea that encampment residents are not deserving of support and care while they live outside year-round, but especially with harsh winters approaching. The way city staff approach unhoused people in the city keeps them stuck in a loop of precarity. The previous encampment protocol (which was abruptly taken out of practice) allowed my neighbours to camp but kept them in a constant state of motion, disallowing them from settling and maintaining a sense of stability, in spite of the circumstances of sleeping rough. Now, this instability for unhoused people is even worse with the threat of eviction being constant. The city does not offer appropriate supports that are tailored to the needs of encampment residents, yet expects the state of houselessness in the city to change. Shelters are **not** an appropriate solution - they are only temporary and the decision by many Hamiltonians to reside in encampments sends the clear message that sleeping in a tent in a park is better than spending time in a shelter. There is a narrative that unhoused people in local parks and green spaces make those spaces unsafe for housed residents but I would argue that housed constituents already have a place where they are able to feel safe and the same cannot be said for those without a roof over their heads. It is the responsibility of the city to provide public restrooms and garbage disposal for all of its residents, regardless of if those residents are housed or not.

Encampment residents are deserving of free and permanent housing with privacy and until then they should be supported by their municipal government and community to live as they see fit in encampments.

Sincerely,

Elia Hamelin in Corktown Neighbourhood

22 October, 2021

4.11(g)

Members of council,

I am a resident of downtown Hamilton, just off Main Street. I was disturbed by the delegations received by the City on October 19th, 2021. I write this delegation to contribute a different point of view, both from the perspective of a lower-middle class renter living in a neighborhood alongside unhoused people and as a scholar in the field of housing.

First, my backyard is open at the back, and is only separated from a parking lot on the long side by a chain link fence. Both this detail about my residence and the general neighborhood I live in mean that I have had many interactions with homeless members of the community – nearly all of them have been positive and mutually respectful. I have occasionally invited homeless neighbours to use the tap in my backyard during this summer's heat wave, and *never* later found anything to be missing, or any harm to have been done to myself or my belongings. Moreover, I found that these occasional invitations were respected by my unhoused neighbors, and they did not abuse the invitation or turn up without my permission. Thus, I must note the extreme subjectivity of the delegations received by the City – one person may have positive interactions while another may have negative interactions; most people have a combination of both, with people from various social classes. Policy should be guided by evidence-based best practice, not the interests of specific individuals.

To that end, I must state, both as a resident of the city and a scholar, how deeply worried I am about the fact that, with winter approaching, so many Hamiltonians remain on the street. The City stated, in its 2020 update to the 2013 Housing and Homelessness plan, that it has the "...goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025" (O'Brien, 2018). The City should know that this goal requires that housing solutions for people who have been homeless must be supportive, family and pet friendly, and near other services. If the desire of council is to provide the City's residents with "...housing and homelessness responses that are based on intentional planning and good evidence and that have measurable positive impacts and outcomes" (City of Hamilton, 2020), then the answer is already before you: aggressively lobby the province and the federal government for funds to continue the Housing First project on a permanent basis, and in the meantime, cease encampment evictions immediately so that service providers can more easily find and assist those in need.

Please find below a short list of references, including the City's own housing and homelessness plan, for your perusal. I am available and happy to speak with you should you have any questions or would like a fuller list of references.

Sincerely,

Edith Wilson, MA

PhD Student, University of Guelph

References:

- “City of Hamilton Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.” 2020. Appendix A to report CS11017(d). Hamilton, ON: City of Hamilton.
- Crowe, Cathy. 2007. *Dying for a Home: Homeless Activists Speak Out*. Toronto: Between the Lines.
- Goering, Paula, Scott Veldhuizen, Aimee Watson, Carol Adair, Brianna Kopp, Eric Latimer, Geoff Nelson, Eric MacNaughton, David Streiner, and Tim Aubry. 2014. “National At Home/Chez Soi Final Report.” Calgary, AB: Mental Health Commission of Canada.
<https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/document/24376/national-homechez-soi-final-report>.
- Greenwood, Ronni Michelle, Ana Stefancic, and Sam Tsemberis. 2013. “Pathways Housing First for Homeless Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities: Program Innovation, Research, and Advocacy.” *Journal of Social Issues* 69 (4): 645–63. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12034>.
- O’Brien, James. 2018. “Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Update.” HSC18017. Hamilton, ON: City of Hamilton.
- Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association. 2013. “Housing First.” 2. FocusON.

4.11(h)

Oct 21, 2021

Dear Hamilton City Council,

“Ultimately, encampments are a reflection of Canadian governments’ failure to successfully implement the right to adequate housing”¹

City council, the question that you should be asking is how we can adequately house the people in encampments. Until our city provides an adequate housing solution, our city has no right to dismantle encampment shelters.

“International human rights law does not permit governments to destroy peoples’ homes, even if those homes are made of improvised materials and established without legal authority. Governments may not remove residents from encampments without meaningfully engaging with them and identifying alternative places to live that are acceptable to them. Any such removal from their homes or from the land which they occupy, without the provision of appropriate forms of legal protection, is defined as a ‘forced eviction’ and is considered a gross violation of human rights.”¹

Stop using Hamilton tax payer money to hire police and garbage trucks to destroy temporary shelters that were donated by Hamiltonians to Hamiltonians.

Start using Hamilton tax payer money to provide adequate housing solutions to transition people out of encampments.

Ask yourselves city councilors, “Do you care if the Hamiltonians in these encampments die?”

If you don’t care, then you really do not belong in your seat on council.

And if you do care, then show it by spending your effort creating an adequate housing solution for these Hamiltonians.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joda Kuk



Hamiltonian for the past 21 years.

¹ A National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada, Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing

4.11(i)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: HESN Planning Committee Response

From: Jie Chen

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:22 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: HESN Planning Committee Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

I read the update of the HESN Planning Committee meeting and wish to express my support for encampment residents.

To be honest, there are a lot of things that I might not like that much about encampments. However, considering the limited options they can choose, banning encampments may really leave people to die.

I strongly suggest we put lives in front of anything else.

Jie Chen

4.11(j)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment Enforcement Delegation concerns.

From: Daniel Boot

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:59 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Encampment Enforcement Delegation concerns.

Hello,

My name is Daniel Boot, I am a Hamilton resident living in the Stinson neighbourhood and have been a resident there for the past 5 years. Recently I learned about discussions that took place on Oct. 19, 2021 regarding the homelessness issues that Hamilton is facing right now.

In the last five years I've seen this city change and while sometimes it was for the better I've also noticed more and more encampments sprouting up around the city and in my neighbourhood.

When I see these areas my first thought was never concern for my own safety, nor was it of disgust that these encampments were near where I live.

My thoughts always go out to those being forced into these conditions, I fear for their safety, their lives and their mental wellbeing. And I wonder how in a rich country like Canada, we are failing so many people? How is our system so flawed that people are living in tents while the rich have more than they need.

The people in these encampments are our neighbours, they are friends and family members and Hamiltonians. The lack of compassion and understanding or willingness to help from those who made these statements on Oct. 19 do not reflect the thoughts of everyone in Hamilton.

If these people are forced from their encampments, where will they go? These are human lives, they are people. They cannot and should not be treated like anything less.

Thank you,

Daniel.

4.11(k)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment in Hamilton

From: M Wilding

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:46 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Encampment in Hamilton

Dear City council,

I want to express my opposition to clearing encampments as recommended by Councillor Farr.

I do recognize that your neighbours living in tents without access to bathrooms and social supports is concerning.

I live on Dundurn street and drive by Durand Park so that is the neighborhood I see the most.

My personal experience with people living in these camps came during the early pandemic. I volunteered at a hygiene and rest centre when my workplace closed.

The Cathedral on James Street opened to have a place for people who needed bathrooms, and coffee and snacks plus hygiene items like soap, feminine hygiene products, underwear and socks.

I got to chat with people there which I don't usually do. Some of them said they also needed things like tarps and ropes which we didn't have.

I'm not a mental health professional so I don't know what the situations some of them had but I did see that some did respond unpredictably sometimes. We did not however have problems with vandalism or theft and the bathrooms at the cathedral were not damaged during the time the center was open.

As restrictions eased last summer we had to close this center because a daycare at the cathedral was allowed to reopen and there were strict covid occupancy and visitor limits.

However the point is that the unhoused people using the cathedral hygiene and rest center were aware that they needed certain amenities such as a bathroom. I think if amenities were available to them near the camps they would also be used.

I think instead of evicting people from camps maybe one option would be to provide hygiene centres. It is possible that partnerships with community groups like the one the at Christ's Church Cathedral would reduce the cost to the city.

A hygiene center would not need to be right in the parks but nearby enough that the people in the camp could get there. Camps and hygiene centers are not a solution or cure to an economic and health issue but a treatment or management option.

I support the police keeping an eye on the camps for the safety of individuals living there as well as to be objective observers of conditions there.

Please remember the people living in the camps are neighbours too.

Please contact me if I can provide more information,

Thank you,
Margaret Wilding

4.11 (1)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Response to Oct 19th testimonies

From: Daniel Ashworth
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 2:14 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Response to Oct 19th testimonies

To Hamilton City Council,

My name is Daniel Ashworth, I live in Ward 8. I am emailing to express my support for our unhoused neighbours across the city and to combat the dangerous and hateful testimonies made by privileged, housed, white, delegates at the Planning Committee on October 19th. What I heard were affluent individuals that choose to criminalize the most vulnerable people in our community, victimizing themselves, saying things like "anyone who advocates for the prolongation of the status quo is denying her rights to life and security", without a single ounce of empathy for people living without the basic needs of life. These are absolutely despicable testimonies and mindsets from a certain type of individual in this community, with no regard for human life. Victimizing themselves in order to do harm to others is horrid, these mindsets lead to people dying. It disgusts me that harmful classist and ableist rhetoric is being pushed, this shows me that the city has no desire to help house people. I request that my submission is included in the October 27th Council agenda.

Daniel Ashworth

4.11 (m)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Personal statement for Oct 27 council - Support Encampment Residents

From: Will Allen

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 1:39 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Personal statement for Oct 27 council - Support Encampment Residents

To whom it may concern:

I'd like the submission below to be included in the October 27th Council agenda.

My name is Will Allen and I am a medical student at McMaster University. I wanted to add my voice to the call *against* criminalizing encampments, and *for* supporting houseless Hamiltonians better.

I have been profoundly disheartened at the direction that discourse around homelessness in Hamilton has taken - portraying folks sleeping rough in encampments as threats to public safety; ignoring their desires and preferences as if they were less than human. We can do better. I have been blessed through my friendships with several folks staying in encampments; I've shared in good conversation with them, and been the recipient of moving acts of kindness and generosity. I am fortunate to know them. I am concerned about their safety as we move into the winter, but am also concerned about the way that many discussions in council and elsewhere show no respect for their dignity.

The current solutions in place for homeless folks in this city are not sufficient. During my placements at the hospital for med school, I've had the unsettling experience of calling around to try to get a homeless patient a shelter bed only to find that there are none available. Of course Hamilton needs to invest more money in affordable housing and to create solutions for these community members that are more humane and sustainable - I don't dispute this. I only ask that they be preserved some semblance of choice and stability in the meantime - please don't criminalize encampments. Forcible evictions put houseless residents in even more precarious situations and, what's more, end up raising significant challenges with respect to pandemic contact tracing.

I want to share a quote I've heard a number of times that gets at the heart of the matter: "We used to fight homelessness, when did we start fighting the houseless?" We must ensure that future discussion does not dehumanize houseless folks but instead centre the conversation on these residents bring to our community and how they can best be supported.

Thank you for your time,

Will

--

Will Allen

he/him

4.11(n)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation for Monday October 27th Council Meeting re: Encampment Enforcement

From: Jeanette Eby
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 1:31 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Delegation for Monday October 27th Council Meeting re: Encampment Enforcement

To the Hamilton City Councillors and Mayor:

I am a resident and homeowner in Ward 2, and I live adjacent to Beasley Park. I have lived downtown for the last 14 years and I love my community. I am writing this delegation, which I would like presented at the Council meeting on October 27th, to declare my solidarity with encampment residents and to demand an end to encampment evictions.

For the past year, I have been a neighbour to various residents who have set up tents to live in, in the park closest to my home and throughout the lower city. These residents deserve to be treated with dignity, They deserve safety, care, stability, and support. They are my neighbours, and they should not be targeted or criminalized by the City simply for living outdoors, when there are no other options. I truly love this city, and I am angry and disheartened by the official response to encampments. There are so many front line advocates and folks with lived experience who know what they need, and currently our city cannot meet those needs. Instead of focusing on removing people from their homes and current sources of support, let's work on meeting these needs from the ground up and putting resources into housing, harm reduction and health care.

Housing is a human right and the housing crisis will not go away just because we sweep away tents and houseless people from the public view. You can do better, we can do better. I am grateful for the work of the Hamilton Encampment Support Network, Keeping Six, HamSmart, the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion and other advocates working on the ground.

I call on you to listen to those who have been purposely silenced and pushed aside, to demonstrate compassion and put an end to encampment evictions. So that we can build a city that truly is for everyone.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Eby
Beasley/Ward 2 Resident

4.11(0)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission for Oct 27 Council mtg agenda

From: Cath Craig
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:31 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Submission for Oct 27 Council mtg agenda

Please include the following letter in the October 27th Council agenda:

To Mayor Eisenberger and Hamilton City Councillors,

I'd like to add my voice to the ongoing conversation around encampment enforcement.

I'm a Hamilton resident, who is privileged enough to be able to afford to rent a house. I am reminded every time I see an encampment that many fellow Hamiltonians are not as lucky.

Against many odds, these fellow Hamiltonians are surviving, are making for themselves a community, and a place to stay warm, dry and safe. These are basic human needs and rights. Their access to these things should not be impeded or forcibly taken, especially in the extremely dangerous cold season ahead.

I want to remind Council that these people are human beings, not just "an issue" that needs to be dealt with or swept under the rug. When tents are dismantled, you are tearing down someone's home.

Rather than focusing on dismantling encampments to "handle the issue", City Council should urgently prioritize major development of affordable housing to make other options available to people living in encampments. Tackle the root of the problem. We have empty buildings wasting away all over the downtown. There needs to be homes for these folks to have access to, if they are not allowed to make their own homes in encampments. Movement on affordable housing is too slow; this needs to be prioritized and sped up. It is a matter of life or death.

I'd also like to add that as a mother of two young kids, I do not feel unsafe playing in a park with my kids near encampments. We are respectful and give space to people who may be resting or coming and going from tents, and it's clear that this respect is mutual.

I'll end with a story: last weekend at J.C. Beemer Park I saw a woman sweeping the pavement near the outside of her tent. I was struck by how meticulously she was tidying this outdoor space, the same way that I clean my kitchen floors after a busy day. She was taking care of her space, treating it like what it is: her home.

Signed,

Catherine Craig

4.11(p)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: In support of our houseless neighbours

From: Nancy Hurst

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:46 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: In support of our houseless neighbours

Hello,

Please add my letter to the public record on the Oct 27 Council agenda.

I am writing in support of encampment residents and urging Council to help, not displace Hamiltonians living in encampments within our neighbourhoods. I don't know how many of us have been close to losing it all, or how many have actually crossed that line. I am lucky enough not to have had to endure such a situation and I'm sure it is not an experience I would wish on anyone. Folk with no options left but a tent in a park deserve our compassion and aid, not to be shunned and treated as "less than" the rest of us. Please work with them, with their supporters and with organizations like HESN to find the best solutions to safely accommodate our houseless neighbours. Do not shunt them aside and pretend the problem doesn't exist. Learn their names and their needs and work toward fulfilling those needs. We must work together to raise up the less fortunate among us.

Thank you for standing up for our houseless neighbours in Hamilton.

Nancy Hurst
Ancaster

4.11(9)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Oct. 27 Council Meeting - Request to Include in Agenda

From: M. Brockbank
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:35 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Oct. 27 Council Meeting - Request to Include in Agenda

Good evening:

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Maddie Brockbank and I am a Hamilton resident. I am writing to you today regarding the recent delegations surrounding encampment evictions. Please include my written response below in the Oct. 27 city council meeting agenda.

I was deeply disturbed by several delegations that occurred on Oct. 19th regarding encampment evictions. It was glaringly obvious that those who were afforded the space and time to speak about this issue were coming from a place of significant privilege. Namely, all of the delegates were white and housed, and many were affluent. The perspectives that they shared were inevitably shaped by these experiences and positionalities. The comments made during this meeting were rooted in classism, ableism, sanism, and dehumanization of those living in poverty, living precariously, who are unhoused, and/or who are experiencing concerns related to mental health and substance use. Delegates appeared to rely heavily on assumptions and popular stereotypes about unhoused people, and they applauded Councillor Farr's efforts to dismantle encampments.

I want to emphasize that these delegates do not speak for me or on my behalf. I find it incredibly troubling that so many residents were willing to go on record and express disgust and apathy toward unhoused people in their neighbourhoods. When Hamilton is in the midst of a severe housing crisis, it is appalling that only those who have the privilege and ability to afford shelter are given the space and opportunity to comment on this issue. City Council has neglected to communicate with those who are most impacted, including those accessing and/or living in encampments. As privileged, white, and affluent folks shape, perpetuate, and reify discourses surrounding houselessness in Hamilton through these comments and public efforts to dismantle encampments, they contribute to the continuous stigmatization of and violence against those experiencing houselessness. In this process, houselessness becomes an individualized issue that pathologizes, isolates, and harms vulnerable persons and distracts from the systems and structures facilitating houselessness (e.g. the failures of the shelter system, the lack of affordable, free, and/or supportive housing, the criminalization of poverty, mental health concerns, and substance use, etc.). This is compounded by the ways in which residents expressed their willingness to call the police to address the issue, which puts unhoused people at significant risk of further violence (e.g. having their belongings thrown away, being ticketed, being violently displaced from their places of shelter, being subjected to ongoing surveillance, etc.). As a social worker, I have seen firsthand the violence that police and community members have committed against those experiencing houselessness. The delegations from Oct. 19 communicate the kinds of beliefs and discourses that underpin, facilitate, and justify this violence. Rather than support our fellow community members, we criminalize, pathologize, and remove them from the community. That is violent.

I echo the concerns voiced by the Hamilton Encampment Support Network (HESN): what does it mean for the rest of our communities when those being listened to by public representatives are those who have money, power, roofs over their heads, and proximity to whiteness and able-bodiedness that protects them from the realities of extreme poverty? Whose interests are we protecting and uplifting? When City Councillors are supposed to represent their constituents,

what does it mean when they only make space for those who are afforded these privileges and spaces? As we approach the cold winter months, how will City Council meaningfully address the housing crisis in ways that do not involve violently evicting and displacing unhoused people?

Overall, we must continue to push our neighbours to see encampment residents as human beings worthy of life, because, until this occurs, until we can empathize with those who are being ostracized and vilified simply for existing, then we cannot even begin to have real dialogues about housing policy. Policy is only as powerful as those willing to fight for its implementation, and these delegations were upsetting and counterproductive. City Council must be accountable for addressing this issue in a way that considers the needs and interests of those who were not represented by the Oct. 19 delegations.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Maddie Brockbank (she/her), BSW, MSW, RSW

4.11(r)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Oct. 27th Council

From: Michelle Tom
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:40 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Oct. 27th Council

Councillors,

Policing doesn't solve issues related to being houseless.

Michelle Tom

4.11 (S)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Respose to Planning Committee delegations with respect to Encampment Enforcement

From: Federico Galindo
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:33 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Respose to Planning Committee delegations with respect to Encampment Enforcement

Dear clerk,

This email is in response to the Oct 19th planning committee meeting regarding the encampment enforcement and the delegations pro the increase of enforcement.

I would like this submission included in the Oct 27th council agenda regarding 'encampment enforcement' for the statement below:

After listening to several of the delegations from the previous planning meeting, I would first like to point out how the folks who were given a voice at this meeting are visibly white or white-passing, speaking from a place of privilege, folks with a roof over their heads. It is absolutely disappointing that you aren't reaching out to a broader audience in order to hear other perspectives but only selecting folks who would support the cause which you are pursuing. As a person of colour and a professional researcher living in this community, I want to point out that this is called confirmation bias and leading research, which ultimately renders invalid data and that confirms your existing hypothesis/beliefs and discards those which challenge them.

I am disgusted by the fact that you and these few white voices are deciding the future and lives of houseless folks living in those encampments, who by the way are often black, indigenous, racialized, disabled, and poor community members. They were forced to live there due to the lack of initiatives to address the housing crisis in 'hamilton' and you are simply continuing to advocate for violence towards other human beings by continuing enforcement.

The stories told in those delegations often spoke of lack of 'safety' through crimes, cleanliness, and drug-use. This idea of 'safety' comes from the perspective of those folks speaking from places of privilege and who are simply inconvenienced by the fact that they are now forced to see the reality of the housing crisis. In addition, the events spoken of are anecdotal in nature and based on little to no evidence which means that these 'crimes' could have easily been committed by people other than the ones in the encampments and passing them as valid is absolutely inappropriate and in fact unprofessional. In no way do I see the blocking of any amenities aside from the fact that people of privilege are too good to share these spaces with other than what they originally wished for.

The reality is that the neighbours in those encampments have no other choice than to create a community in these spaces because the housing crisis is real and unresolved in 'hamilton'. The programs and shelters that have been placed are not enough and often endanger the lives of many more people in our city by offering unsafe, overcrowded premises. They increase the chance of contracting disease including COVID-19 and all its variants. The solutions to these issues are not solved by more violence and brutality against other humans but by including all the voices that mean to truly improve the situation. In these delegations folks are literally supporting more harm and even death to other human beings and they should be ashamed of having that perspective, just because you now have other folks living in your community and your morning walk is slightly different than what you are used to, does not give them the right to inflict more violence.

And so I demand that you and other people in the committee push back on the additional reinforcement of these camps and instead use that money/funding to initiate change that addresses the root problem that is ultimately the housing crisis. I want to see you share and be transparent with the community about what you are planning to do in the next 3 to 6 months as well as 3 to 6 years down the line.

Thanks for reading and I look forward to seeing this on the Oct 27th agenda,

Federico Galindo
Ward 3 - Stipley

4.11(+)

Pilon, Janet

Encampment Enforcement (for inclusion in Oct 27 Council agenda)

Subject:

From: Emily Anne
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:48 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: RE: Encampment Enforcement (for inclusion in Oct 27 Council agenda)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my outrage about the delegations presented during the council meeting of October 19, 2021, and my grave concerns about encampment enforcement.

Inconvenience and injustice are vastly different experiences. If the residents of Hamilton are inconvenienced by having to live in proximity to houseless people, that should only serve as a reminder of the serious health issues our houseless neighbours face. Concerns like odour and noise disruption (like some of the delegates mentioned) pale in comparison to food insecurity, violence, and any number of systemic failings houseless people are subjected to. There is a huge difference between feeling unsafe and being unsafe.

Encampment enforcement is a waste of resources in addition to being cruel. The city should be directing its resources to resolve the very real crisis of housing insecurity (and food insecurity, and lack of mental health care, and so on). The very least the city can do is leave encampments alone.

Sincerely,

Emily Downs

Pilon, Janet

4.11(u)

Subject: To Be Included in Oct 27 Council Agenda - In Support of Encampments

From: Megan Janssen

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:39 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: To Be Included in Oct 27 Council Agenda - In Support of Encampments

Hello,

I would like the following submission included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

I write today to contest the Planning Committee delegations that took place with respect to Encampment Enforcement discussions pushed forward by Councillor Jason Farr.

As a Hamiltonian I support my neighbours in tents. The thought that my tax dollars could pay to evict human beings from the only homes they have (in encampments) and left to literally die in the cold as winter approaches makes me sick to my stomach.

As the mother of two young children, I think of them when I see a person experiencing houslessness in my community. Instead of criminalizing these human beings, these people who are someone's children - let us actually support them through housing and care, safe injection sights etc. Models for success exist in different cities and countries - we just have to invest and implement them. Violent encampment evictions are NOT the answer. Visit <https://caufsociety.com/cities-solving-homelessness/> for more information on this.

I would like to directly address a statement made by Dakota Devenyi, who noted that "anyone who advocates for the prolongation of the status quo is denying her rights to life and security" and that "there is a very large number of "rough people" moving by [her] area.

To this I say that as a housed person in the city of Hamilton, I am safer than those living in encampments - without sturdy walls or locked doors around them. I believe that enforcing encampment evictions is denying the unhoused rights to what little security they have. These "rough people" could indeed be any of us, had we been born into/had different lived experiences. These "rough people" are human beings like you or I, and they deserve to be treated with dignity instead of criminalized and violated.

Finally, the fact that we are having this discussion, a discussion about whether or not human beings should be removed from the few belongings and the safest shelter that they currently have access to means that we are in an extraordinary position of privilege - one that houseless people, those whose very existence we are debating - are not present to speak in the same way that we can be is DEEPLY disturbing, and should cause all of us to pause. Ending encampments will not make our communities safer. It will put people experiencing houselessness at greater risk, and it simply cannot stand.

As I write this letter I am sitting in my heated home as the rain hits the windows, as if to remind me of my privilege. I have a full belly, internet access, privacy and time that has allowed me to see what's going on, and the safety and security that these four wall provides - something houseless people should have too. We must be supporting these people and lifting them up - not evicting them from what they have.

What if it was you in that tent? How would you want to be treated?

Pilon, Janet

4.11 (v)

Subject: Oct 27th planning committee meeting agenda

From: Montana Mellett

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:18 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Oct 27th planning committee meeting agenda

Dear Clerk,

This email is in response to the Oct 19th planning committee meeting re: Encampment Enforcement & the chosen delegations speaking in favor of more enforcement.

For the statement below, I would like this submission included in the **Oct 27th council agenda regarding 'encampment enforcement'**.

I have listened to many of the delegations from the previous planning committee meeting, and they are visibly white or white-passing, housed and speaking from that experience, and are pro-enforcement. I am disappointed to hear no diverging experiences on this issue and disgusted to hear the cold and callous responses from the delegations. By the looks of it, only privileged voices were given space to speak. It's hard to believe that we are even debating privileged comforts over houseless folks' lives. This is literally a matter of life and death for many of our houseless neighbors. Housing is a human right and since there is no permanent housing available, our houseless neighbors should be able to decide where they'd like to stay and where they feel the safest.

Many of these delegations spoke of crime, cleanliness, drug use, and 'safety' to their lives. Out of curiosity, what definition of 'safe' are we operating under? Who's safety is being prioritized? and for what reasons does that require violent encampment evictions to continue to take place? What I was hearing and what was being described, was more a threat to the way these delegations see and interact with the world around them, they don't extend the same type of dignity and respect to our houseless neighbors. Instead, they are viewed as outsiders, hindrances to their comfortable lives. In reality, "Enjoying and accessing outdoor spaces and amenities" has not been hindered. Rather, the fact that our privileged community members cannot ignore houseless folks anymore because they are right in front of their eyes rather than hidden (or pushed away out of the public eye).

Most of the delegations spoke of more enforcement or removals and their statements are ripe with poor bashing rhetoric. Poor-bashing is ignoring our houseless neighbors who express their needs. It is having programs designed, by other people (usually those of privilege), to help houseless folks - that don't work. These responses to the encampments are harmful and lack understanding of what is really needed.

Saying "We have safer, more humane options than sleeping rough and we remain committed to offering supports and alternatives to those living in encampments" is false. Many encampment residents have voiced that they feel safer when they are able to be around their friends, with their spouses or animals, and able to take all of their belongings with them. I also know that houseless community members are at far greater risk of contracting COVID-19 under current overcrowded shelter conditions, and that encampment evictions physically prevent homeless community members from accessing resources, supports, and medical care through routine displacement. **Until there is safe, free, and permanent housing**, none of the temporary shelters or hotels will be sufficient for those who have tried and see no other option.

It's been a year since the violent encampment evictions that happened on Ferguson St and the continuous displacement of houseless folks has proceeded with no support from the city. I see these delegations' responses as more of a failure of the city to respond in any meaningful way than at the fault of houseless folks themselves. It's incredibly disheartening to see this happen as a constituent and as a neighbor to my houseless friends. I would like to see some real compassionate action coming from the Mayor and councilors of 'Hamilton', give an actual game plan for 3 months - 5 years out that is guided and led by our houseless neighbors and their support networks with a harm reduction approach.

Placing the blame on encampment residents is not the answer, more enforcement is not the answer. What's clear to me is, encampment evictions put people directly in harm's way, so how can the city be okay with harming people (ie. when appealing the encampment protocol and evicting folks)? I know that Black, Indigenous, racialized, disabled, and poor community members are overrepresented in encampments and these evictions have been and continue to be dehumanizing displays of violence.

Thanks for reading and considering my request to have this submission added to the Oct 27th agenda,

Montana Mellett
Ward 3 - Stipley

Pilon, Janet

4.11(w)

Subject: End Encampment Evictions

From: Kal Ing

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:14 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: End Encampment Evictions

My name is Kal, I am a member of the North End Community, Ward 2 has always been my home. I find the delegations of the City of Hamilton Planning Committee that took place earlier this week appalling.

The issue at hand is the lack of adequate housing for all peoples throughout Hamilton. Not people relying on encampments for safe housing. If there were available and sustainable housing for homeless people, they would be in them. In contrast to Dakota Devenyi's statement "anyone who advocates for the prolongation of the status quo is denying [her] rights to life and security"- what of our houseless neighbours rights and security?

The energy and resources being used to police houseless folks should absolutely be used to ensure AFFORDABLE housing for said people.

Please reflect on the statement "We used to fight homelessness, when did we start fighting the houseless?"

I request that my submission be included in the council agenda on October 27th.

Kal Ing

Pilon, Janet

4.11(x)

Subject: Delegation Submission for October 27th Council Agenda

From: Andrea Phair
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:44 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca; Anne Dwyer <dwyeram@gmail.com>
Subject: Delegation Submission for October 27th Council Agenda

My name is Andrea Phair and I am a concerned citizen and resident of the city of Hamilton.

I am emailing in support of our houseless neighbours living in encampments throughout the city, as there continue to be no options available to them for affordable housing.

Safe and affordable housing should be available to all those that live in the city of Hamilton. Sadly, this is not the case and many of our houseless neighbours have no recourse but to live in encampments, and the criminalization of such encampments is inhumane. These are real people, our neighbours, and they cannot be cleared out, for the sake of the privileged few who are more concerned about aesthetics than prioritizing housing for those experiencing homelessness.

The city Hamilton has a responsibility to ensure that our houseless neighbours, their health and safety are made a priority, especially given the winter is fast approaching. As the weather gets colder, people are trying to prepare themselves for the cold season, and it is impossible to do that if they continue to be displaced. This is a matter of life and death and needs to be taken seriously and with their well being and humanity in mind.

The funds the City of Hamilton has used to remove my unhoused neighbours and their belongings through violent policing and policy are better used to provide people permanent housing.

As a constituent, my family and I demand that you and City Council stop removing people from parks with community funds. Hamilton Police and Municipal Law Enforcement continuously harass encampment residents and throw away their belongings.

Our houseless neighbours deserve autonomy and to be a part of the decision making that impacts their health, wellbeing, and lives.

The city of Hamilton/ city council need to do more and better, I am appealing to you to vote as though real people, human lives depend on it, because they do.

Concerned citizen,
Andrea Phair

Pilon, Janet

4.11(y)

Subject: Submission for Oct. 27 Council Agenda

From: Miriam Novick

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:16 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Submission for Oct. 27 Council Agenda

Hello,

Below, please find a submission for inclusion in the Oct. 27 council agenda.

I write today as a resident of the North End in Ward 2, and as a constituent of Jason Farr's who has emailed him (without response) to express my strong disagreement with dismantling encampments and my support for returning to the previous 14-day encampment protocol recently revoked without consultation. Encampments that have existed over the past 18 months at different times on Strachan across from the Sunset Cultural Garden, at Eastwood Park, and at Jackie Washington Park are all within walking distance from my home. I have visited a number of my neighbours in tents during the pandemic to say hello, bring water, and make conversation.

Despite what some of my neighbours have said here and what Councillor Farr would like to present as a consensus, there are many of us in Ward 2 and across the city who do not share the frankly dehumanizing positions advanced in our names. Let's be perfectly clear: no one thinks that encampments are a permanent solution to meet people's real needs. As winter approaches, this concern only becomes more pressing. However, I and many of my neighbours across Hamilton also understand that forcing people experiencing poverty to move endlessly from park to park and discarding their belongings each time is not the way to build the kind of trust required to actually attain the safe, secure, permanent housing that encampment residents need and deserve.

As I have said to Councillor Farr by email, I do not accept the argument that the presence of encampments is an inherent safety threat to housed residents; I have never been or felt threatened in the presence of my neighbours in tents (in my experience, I am objectively much less safe somewhere like Hess Village or when fascists rally outside City Hall than I am around someone who sleeps in a tent). I understand that there may be instances in which others have had different experiences, but to insist *the very presence* of tents or of people who may be experiencing mental health issues or using substances is a safety risk is simply ableist class-based discrimination. It reflects a disinterest in the real conditions of people's lives in favour of having struggle removed from sight. It turns the discomfort of witnessing someone else's suffering into a crime that further punishes the sufferer.

I also categorically reject the argument that the smooth operation of businesses or the maintenance of property values is more important than the safety of encampment residents, as some delegates have insisted. I have the tremendous privilege of owning the home I live in: this means my safety is already infinitely more guaranteed than for my neighbours in encampments. To turn around comfortable in my privilege and insist that people often experiencing significant challenges should be removed from my view with no choice or agency of their own about where they go would be a profound ethical failure. As a settler, to rest secure in a

home on stolen land and to insist that others, including Indigenous encampment residents, be removed for my comfort is to perpetuate colonial legacies the city and the country as a whole just recently made much of ostensibly acknowledging and reconciling.

I ask the city to reconsider their stance in revoking the encampment protocol and in criminalizing and evicting encampment residents more broadly. I want the city to use this moment to make a different choice, to chart a more ethical and humane path that takes seriously what encampment residents want and need, that understands real safety starts with prioritizing the most vulnerable, not the most powerful. Safety is built together, not imposed through violence, fear, and shame.

Miriam Novick
North End/Ward 2

4.11(z)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation for October 27th Council Agenda

From: Sherly Kyorkis
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:04 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Delegation for October 27th Council Agenda

Dear councillors/city clerks. I am requesting that this delegation be read at the upcoming council meeting on October 27th. Thank you.

—

I am writing this e-mail to contest the recent comments from ableist, classist, violent delegations that took place on October 19th in response to Councillor Jason Farr's push towards the dismantling of encampments in Hamilton. I live in Ward 7, and have lived here since settling to this "country" with my family from so-called Iraq in 1997. One of the coolest things about this city that my parents enjoy and love is that it's a harbour city, like Basra, where we were all born. On top of this, my parents enjoyed how Hamilton welcomed folks from "all walks of life" for lack of a better term, and recently, they have been disgusted, like myself, by how the city does not respond to the issue of houselessness, the lack of affordable and free housing, and the minimal resources for under represented peoples, on top of all the nonsense around taking down a useless statue so that Indigenous folks have one less reminder of historical and current violence. Mind you, these nonsenses were always happening, but engaged folks have found ways to bring these issues to the surface. Witnessing last week's delegates respond to our neighbours in encampments with such vile comments, dehumanizing them and attacking them as people instead of attacking the systemic and purposeful barriers put up by the city and those in power, or asking questions as to why our neighbours are and or "choose" to be in encampments in the first place. Why are we not asking why our neighbours in encampments feel safer outdoors than in city-run shelters? Why are our neighbours constantly harrassed and threatened by by-law officers and police officers, and their belongings taken away and thrown in the garbage, and why are public tax dollars funding these disgusting acts of violence? If the city chooses not to listen to neighbours in encampments, or Black, Indigenous, queer, and or disabled youth who are constantly on the frontlines fighting for their neighbours' human rights and dignity, then the LEAST they can do is leave folks in encampments alone to live in communities they choose and in spaces they feel a bit safer. Shame on the city for not responding to people's needs, and shame on them once more for doing more damage by not allowing folks to live in and navigate a situation they are placed in because their municipality let them down. Please stop treating people's lives like it's an inconvenient political throwaway. As a Hamiltonian, I demand safe and affordable and or free housing for all folks in encampments and to stop harrassing and undermining youth and folks who are always doing the most while most city councillors treat human lives as non-issues.

With anger,
Sherly Kyorkis (she/they)
Ward 7 Resident

4.11(aa)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Criminalizing Encampments is not the Solution to Homelessness

From: Laura Pin

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:41 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Criminalizing Encampments is not the Solution to Homelessness

Dear Hamilton City Council,

I'm an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University, where my research focuses on public policy and social inequality. I live in Hamilton, in Ward 1. I'm writing to express my concern with the City of Hamilton's approach to encampments, including forced removal of residents, which has not been evidence based or in line with best practices and a human rights centred approach to housing.

Throughout the summer and fall, my daughter (age 3) and I regularly use the amenities at parks downtown with encampments. We have never had a negative experience with an encampment resident, and the presence of encampments has not affected our recreational park use. We support the right of our unhoused neighbours to use public space to house themselves in the absence of safe and/or affordable alternatives.

Spatial displacement - forcibly removing encampment residents from parks - increases social marginalization (Kaufman, 2021) making it more difficult for unhoused residents to connect with the services they need. Complaint-oriented enforcement of municipal bylaws, as the City has been pursuing, is also not an evidence-based response (Herring, 2021), and often applied in a discriminatory manner to racialized and disabled residents.

Nobody's first choice is to live in a park, especially with the reality of colder weather approaching. However, in the context of insufficient and unsafe shelter spaces, and a lack of affordable housing, some residents of Hamilton have no real alternative. We are in the midst of an ongoing housing crisis where there are neither enough shelter spots, nor enough social housing units to provide alternative housing for encampment residents. According to the city's own data, only 15% of encampment residents who interacted with city staff over the past summer have been housed.

Forced displacement of encampment residents is contrary to a human rights centred approach to housing and a shameful waste of scarce public resources which would better be spent working to meet basic sanitation and garbage disposal needs at encampment sites, and connect residents with social supports, as I know many housing outreach staff have been working diligently to do.

We can and should do better! And there are plenty of local organizations with expertise in working with encampment residents that could provide direction on this.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Pin

Pilon, Janet

4.11(bb)

Subject: comment re: city policy against encampments

From: Rebecca Londner

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:30 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: comment re: city policy against encampments

Hello,

I would like this comment included in the October 27th Council meeting agenda.

I live downtown in Ward 2 and I am writing to voice my disgust that the City of Hamilton is continuing to enact their callous and dangerous policies against the unhoused population. The city knows they are short roughly 150 shelter beds and yet chooses to tear down tents, displace people who are already unhoused, and destroy their property.

Living on the streets is traumatizing enough, and the amount of people who find themselves there due to serious mental health issues or abuse they've experienced is extremely high. **Everyone wants to talk about mental health awareness and being anti-abuse (including the City), until the subject turns to people who are unhoused**, especially when they are self-medicating with substances or it presents in another way that makes people who are housed feel uncomfortable.

The City needs to find real housing solutions and help for its community members who have fallen through the cracks. The national community has eyes on Hamilton about this issue. How will history remember what our councillors decided to do to our unhoused community members?

Rebecca Londner

4.11(cc)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Planning Committee Delegation

From: phoebe taylor
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:07 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Planning Committee Delegation

Hello City Council.

I am Phoebe, a small business owner and operator born and raised in Hamilton. I am writing to voice my support and loving compassion for encampment residents. I am absolutely disgusted with how our city treats its most vulnerable peoples, and by allowing the threatening and fear mongering tactics of the white, privileged and *housed* minority to be the loudest voice in the room.

I live in ward three, a couple blocks from gage park. It is the same neighbourhood I have grown up in for 20+ years and I am shocked to see the city support the greater divide between million dollar homes and the encampments tucked away just out of sight. The response to someone out in the cold is not to shoo them further away, but to ask what system would allow for someone to set up camp along the road, in a park, or in front of city hall? This is no ones first choice of home and the city must take responsibility for the systems that do not give its peoples safe, equitable opportunities for housing and subsequent resources.

Criminalizing someone's misfortune for our city not doing our part to care for them as a community is not how we end houselessness. Why are we fighting individuals when we work to fight houslessness?

Shame on the city councilors that prioritize profit over the people it claims this city is for. Shame on the councillors that chose to gamble with people's lives instead of enacting a future where we can all have the resources we need to not just survive, but thrive. Hamilton has the opportunity to create a city that is truly safe for all. This changes now.

I would like my submission included in the October 27th council agenda,

Yours in love, compassion and dreaming of a brighter world where we can all feel safe,

Phoebe Taylor

She+Her

4.11(dd)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment enforcement delegation

From: Ariel Kligerman

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:37 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Encampment enforcement delegation

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to contest the delegations with respect to the Encampment Enforcement. I understand that many community members have written complaints around encampments in our Hamilton neighborhoods wanting to see these disappear, however I am hoping that the committee is able to find their empathy and take steps to support every single person in our community regardless of their race, income, or housing status.

I agree that homelessness is something that needs to be addressed as things cannot continue as they have been. However, the way to do this is absolutely not to force these encampments elsewhere. If you are someone who is struggling with income, employment, domestic violence, substance addiction, mental health concerns, among other things, and are desperately trying to keep you and your family somewhat safe and sheltered from the natural elements, would it be more beneficial to be offered resources or forcibly pushed out of the small shelter you've managed to find? Try putting yourself in their shoes for just a moment. By forcing police to close/move all encampments, all you are doing is putting innocent individuals at risk, and as the weather continues to get colder it is quite literally a death sentence.

Those who survive have no options other than to try and settle somewhere else until they are once again forced out. Our shelters are full. Our subsidized housing waitlists are YEARS long. Our waitlists for mental health services are MONTHS long. Our housing prices are continually becoming less affordable, even for those with a stable full-time income. And things have only become worse through this pandemic.

These people don't need to be displaced, they need support, resources, empathy, and options.

Those making requests to have these camps removed are very privileged. They are primarily white and able bodied, and they have clearly lost all traces of their humanity and empathy. The homeless are easy scapegoats, but they are also people, they deserve respect and support as much as any other person.

The Club 77 owner making complaints about smells of urine due to homeless people is almost laughable. As someone who is familiar with this establishment, I have seen many of its attendees urinate and throw up in the streets around the building, often after partaking in excessive alcohol consumption. There has been violent criminal activity at this establishment that has nothing to do with the homeless in the area. I have two friends who were assaulted at this establishment on separate occasions, not by homeless people outside, but by other attendees who were inside, served alcohol continually, and faced no other repercussions other than being asked to leave and gently escorted outside (better treatment for these white males, I might add, than the innocent people seeking shelter in a tent because they can afford nothing else).

Others are calling police continually on those struggling with mental health concerns, and I think they would agree it does not help. Police have a role, but they come after a crime, to deal with aftermath, press charges, keep the peace. Those struggling with mental illness are not criminals, they (the vast majority of the time) do not pose a safety threat to those around them, they do not need to speak to an officer or be arrested. They need support, counseling, perhaps medications. They need their basic needs met, this is all they are trying to do by living in a tent. I guarantee every person

living in these encampments would prefer to be elsewhere, have a solid roof over their heads. They are not choosing to live in a tent outside in Canada in the fall because they want to... they simply have no other choice. Housed residence stating that encampments are posing a threat to their rights and safety are incredibly blind to the realities these people are facing. It shows an extremely concerning divide wherein those who are housed (and primarily white) are more deserving than those who are struggling, those who did not grow up with generational wealth, those who grew up in poverty and are trying to break out of this intergenerational cycle. Those living in encampments are at much greater danger in their situations than any housed person who feels threatened by other human beings trying to survive.

I understand that those in the community, especially those with young children, may be concerned about the proximity of these camps to their homes and playgrounds. Perhaps establishing a perimeter that camps must be a certain distance from playgrounds could be a compromise. At Dundurn Park there is an encampment. It is set up on one side of the park. It is out of eyesight from the playground, tucked away, and causing absolutely no harm. There are other entrances to the park, those who want to completely avoid the encampment are more than able to do so with zero additional effort needed. So what is the problem? **Why do these people who are trying to carve out an area to literally survive get blamed for existing, when it is the community and policies and governments who have put them in this situation by allowing our housing market to become so out of hand, unaffordable, and inaccessible while also continually cutting funding for majority of social service programs?**

Want to improve homelessness? Invest in affordable housing. Invest in shelter spaces. Invest in social workers and counselors. Invest in safe injection sites. Invest in mental health services. Invest in food programs. Designate a park or area where these people can set up safely and legally until more long-term solutions can be obtained. Or do you not want to improve homelessness? Do you feel that those struggling deserve to be there and do not hold any worth? If this is the case, then with respect dear committee, you do not have a right to be sitting in the position you are or holding the power you have to influence the lives of so many people, and the lives of those who freeze to death this winter fall on you, and were lives that absolutely did not have to be lost.

I request that this submission be included in the Oct 27th council agenda.

Thank you for your time, and I hope to see the right decision made here that respects the inherent value of every single member of our community, not only those with privilege.

Sincerely,

Ariel Kligerman

4.11(ee)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Response to Delegations against homeless citizens

From: Kaitlin Holden

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:23 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Response to Delegations against homeless citizens

I am utterly disgusted,

Regarding the alleged delegations towards the disabled and the houseless neighbours in this city I cannot stress enough how disappointed, disturbed, and revolted I am at the comments being made and delegations towards CITIZENS of the City of Hamilton.

These people are being discussed and regarded as if they are less than human beings and I am appalled at the language used and miniscule "problems" these delegates are speaking of.

Urine smell outside of a bar (club 77)? I have worked in hospitality since the young age of 16 and I can assure anyone who has not, it is the drunk PATRONS who defecate and urinate on and near property and placing the blame on those without homes or proper facilities is very much a scapegoat of a real problem, over serving.

Discussing the lack of feeling "safe" and using terms like "rough people"? The very term screams privilege and lack of knowledge on people with addiction problems who desperately need help they are not given nor given the opportunity to.

Words and lack of knowledge and compassion screamed off the pages of the discussion that was had over human beings. It is speak like this that continue to drive the violence acted upon unhoused people, especially women and youths, as they are seen as less than human.

Citizens of hamilton who are privileged enough and lucky enough to afford housing deem encampments as an "eyesore" and nothing more. They scream "Junkie" and "Crackhead" when passing by these neighbourhoods. They demand to tear them down, or do it themselves. They call on the police who adorn themselves in riot gear and weapons to kick these people out of the only safe shelter they know.

Why are we wasting tax money and resources on harassing and harming innocent people of this city, instead of addressing the real problems. Overpopulation in shelters, being denied admittance due to "sobriety" or sexual/gender identity. These are people of our community, they are our neighbours, and you have the power to help, yet you spit on them and deem them worthless.

Do better. Do something. People will DIE this winter, CHILDREN will die without shelter that encampments provide.

Their deaths, and their blood is on your hands.

People you could have helped, and instead you listened to the privileged folks who lack compassion, empathy, and have never struggled themselves.

Shame on you, on all of you.

4.11(\$\$)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: End Encampment Evictions

From: Montana Mellett

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:22 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Re: End Encampment Evictions

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Paulena Yousif,

I appreciate the timely response, this issue is near and dear to my heart.

I am disappointed to hear no diverging perspectives come from your office on these issues. It's been a year since the violent encampment evictions that happened on Ferguson St.

Out of curiosity, what definition of 'safe' is the Mayor's office operating under? Who's safety is being prioritized? and for what reasons does that require violent encampment evictions to continue to take place?

From what I've seen and heard, "enjoying and accessing outdoor spaces and amenities" has not been hindered. Rather, the fact that our communities cannot ignore houseless folks anymore because they are right in front of their eyes rather than hidden (or pushed away out of the public eye). This response that has been sent to my call to end evictions, is embedded with poor bashing rhetoric. This generic response to an ongoing and ever-growing issue, simply won't suffice.

How can the Mayor's office be okay with lying to its constituents? Saying "We have safer, more human options than sleeping rough and we remain committed to offering supports and alternatives to those living in encampments" is not true. Many encampment residents have voiced that they feel safer when they are able to be around their friends, with their spouses or animals, and able to take all of their belongings with them. Until there is safe, free, and permanent housing, none of the temporary shelters or hotels will be sufficient for those who have tried and see no other option. On top of this, while forcing people out of parks under the false promise of providing houseless people with indoor spaces, I continue to see shelter hotels evict people on the basis of disability-related "disruptions." I also know that houseless community members are at far greater risk of contracting COVID-19 under current overcrowded shelter conditions, and that encampment evictions physically prevent homeless community members from accessing resources, supports, and medical care through routine displacement.

To even further debunk that statement of having more 'human' options than 'sleeping rough', as of 2016, over 11,350 homes stood vacant across the City while condo development projects continue to be approved by Council. The national and provincial

from parks with community funds. Hamilton Police and Municipal Law Enforcement continuously harass encampment residents and throw away their belongings. We, the constituents, will not tolerate this violent response to the ongoing housing crisis.

We demand an end to these evictions until you can provide people with permanent free housing.

Sincerely,
Montana Mellett

4.11(gg)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission for Council Meeting Agenda for Oct 27

From: Connor Bennett

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:54 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Submission for Council Meeting Agenda for Oct 27

City council,

Please include this message in the October 27th council meeting agenda.

I am writing to express my great concern for the safety of my neighbours who live in tents, especially now as the seasons are changing and cold weather is quickly approaching. The recent delegations by Julie Lief, Dakota Devenyl, Paul McDonald, and Bruce Speck that express distain for people who are in great need of support are incredibly disheartening. We as a city need to prioritize people over profit, to put the lives of our neighbours above the discomfort some may feel regarding the houseless.

The support the city offers for people who need housing is far from sufficient. At the very least the city needs to stop pushing people from park to park - let those who are living in tents be. Give them actual support instead of notices to leave. Warm socks, heat packs, hot food, portable toilets. These are some low cost things the city could do to make their lives a little bit easier. When winter comes it is a matter of life and death. People's lives need to be prioritized.

Thank you,

Connor Bennett

Ward 2 Resident

4.11(hh)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampments

From: Ian Walker

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 9:58 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Encampments

Hello,

Writing to you as a tax paying citizen of Ward 2. I live in this ward, and I co-own a small business in this ward. I live and work downtown, and I am a regular user of city parks in this area, especially Beasley Park.

It is with great concern that I write to you and ask, where has your compassion gone? Why does this council lack empathy and humanity when it comes to our unhoused neighbours? These people aren't a plight on our city, they are literally part of it. How can we turn our backs on them, especially during a global pandemic; but more importantly, how can we turn our backs on them at any point in time?

The encampments have not in any way caused me or anyone I know any kind of disturbance, nor have they prevented me from going about my life, running my business, or enjoying the neighbourhood.

The troubling aspect of it all is that the city continues to punish and harass the people living in encampments despite how vulnerable they are. If the city can't provide adequate housing then what is its metric of success as a place for people to live? Hamilton has been voted among the best places to live in Canada on several occasions and is often the subject of civic pride celebrations, whether it be Supercrawl, or T-shirts claiming that you can do anything here or that hamilton is home - but you can't just do anything here, especially if that thing is being unhoused, and when people call it home, they clearly mean just for certain people. So, how do we celebrate a city that not only refuses to provide for its most marginalized people, but actively seeks to punish them?

I'll return to my original question, where is the compassion?

Kind regards,

Ian Walker

Ward 2 resident and business owner

4.11(ii)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission for October 27th Council Agenda

From: Jessica Glegg

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 9:08 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Submission for October 27th Council Agenda

Hello City Council,

I'd like to share my concerns with you about the City's treatment towards encampment residents. I have emailed Jason Farr in the past about encampments and he has not replied to my emails on this topic. It appears he is ignoring his constituents that have opposing views from himself. The recent encampment enforcement discussion and the statements made by business owners and residents do not represent all Hamiltonians.

I am a lifelong Hamiltonian and renter in Ward 2. I also co-own a small business in downtown Hamilton. I am opposed to the City's use of violent force to displace people living in encampments when there is no permanent place for them to go. Residents need support where they are at. Rather than send garbage trucks to destroy people's shelters and possessions, the city should provide water, food, warmth, and sanitation. These needs need to met and permanent solutions need to be created.

Please include this submission in the October 27th Council agenda.

Jess

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Jess Glegg

4.11(jj)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Support for Hamilton Encampments and Hamilton Encampment Support Network

From: Roba Dekamo

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:14 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Support for Hamilton Encampments and Hamilton Encampment Support Network

Hello,

The comments made about our houseless community in the last meeting made it abundantly clear that members of this community will continue to hold the value of property and profit above the value of a human life. The members of our community who are without homes and living in encampments are not a danger to the community but are in fact in danger themselves. These folks are at much higher risks of violence, theft and harm than any of the housed people who spoke up last meeting against our neighbours. People living in encampments are our community and our neighbours and are in need of our support as a community. Not owning property or having a home address does not lessen one's inclusion in our community, they are a part of this city and this is their home too.

Hamilton Encampment Support Network (HESN) continues to prioritize people in their care for those living in encampments, as an organization they listen to the needs of the people living in these conditions and administer care that fits their needs. I stand behind and support HESN

Regards,

Rehoboth Roba Dekamo

4.11(kk)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Planning Committee Encampment Delegations

From: Annilee Baron
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:12 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Planning Committee Encampment Delegations

To whom it may concern,

Please include this in the October 27th Council Agenda.

I am writing to you about my ongoing concern about encampments and our unhoused neighbours in Hamilton. Specifically I'm writing to express my thoughts on recent Planning Committee delegations where property owners were consulted about how unhoused people negatively impact their business endeavours and profits. Frankly, their business endeavours need to take a back seat when people are dying on the streets and living in tents because they have no place to go.

I urge you to see the humanity in this issue. I'm seeing more and more encampments in our neighbourhoods and I do not blame the residents of these encampments or feel burdened or uncomfortable by their presence; instead I deeply empathize with them as see this as a failure of our society to provide adequate housing and support for our citizens. As housing and rent prices continue to skyrocket, we need to work towards affordable housing and supports for houseless people, not harsher punishments for poverty. We need to elevate the voices of those who are truly suffering. Not being able to purchase patio furniture for a condo is NOT a real problem in the face of human rights issues such as houselessness.

Sincerely,

Annilee Baron MTA

4.11(11)

22 October, 2021

To the Hamilton City Council,

My name is Simone Blain and I live in Ainslie Wood West in Hamilton. I'm writing to contest delegations made regarding housing encampments and the effect they are having on your neighbourhoods and their residents. I would like this submission to be included in the Oct. 27 Council Agenda.

Julie Leif delegated, stating that she has “called police more times than [she] could count to help with the “mentally disturbed”, and said that encampments should not exist.

In response to this statement, I would like to mention first of all that the police are an inappropriate first response for someone in a mental health crisis. We have seen horrific stories time and time again that show that the police are ill-equipped to deal with crisis intervention and often respond with excessive use of force, which is a systemic problem here in Hamilton and around the world. The money that the city spends on the police force to respond and ultimately exacerbate the problem, could be used to provide better mental health resources for all Hamiltonians. So the removal of encampments will not solve the issue of trying to help houseless people who are suffering from mental health problems.

Dakota Devenyi delegated, stating that “anyone who advocates for the prolongation of the status quo is denying her rights to life and security” and that “there is a very large number of “rough people” moving by [her] area.

In response to Dakota Devenyi's statement, "... anyone who advocates for the prolongation of the status quo is denying [my] rights to life and security", I'd like to say first off that her "rights to life and security" should be of equal value to the rights "to life and security" of those who are unhoused or living in encampments. We should not value the lives of certain Hamiltonians over others. That said, Devenyi is absolutely right when she says that we should not uphold the status quo, and that something needs to be done to provide safe places for every person in Hamilton to live. The belief that the removal of encampments will aid in public security/safety is shortsighted. The unhoused need somewhere to go, and until the city makes policy change and puts the appropriate resources into dealing with this issue, encampments are absolutely necessary and the people living in them have the right to stay.

Paul McDonald, the owner of Club 77 stated that “the smell of the urine in and around the club is unbearable when the wind blows” and blamed this on houseless encampment residents in the area.

In response to this statement, I believe that the problem does not lie with houseless encampment residents, but the city’s lack of basic infrastructure. We should put money into public washrooms instead of policing public urination. This problem would be null if everyone had access to public washrooms.

Bruce Speck, Condo President for Witton Lofts, 50 Murray Street West, delegated stating that his building is “trying to afford patio furniture for our rooftop but all of our money goes to these costs that is not expected” in relation to homeless people allegedly accessing the foyer in the building. He continued on, saying “at the beginning and the peak of the pandemic we had to make exceptions, but not any longer”

In response to Bruce Speck’s statement, It must be considered that with winter coming, access to warmth is often a matter of life and death. The removal of encampments will not only cost lives but most likely exacerbate the number of unhoused who need to find a place to be warm. The city needs to provide better resources for unhoused people to have a safe place to live, access to basic needs, instead of using resources to remove encampments. This will not solve the issue in and long-term way.

Thank you,

Simone Blain

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pilon, Janet

4.11(mm)

Subject: A Moral Call for Encampment Empathy

From: Kevin Makins

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 2:29 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: A Moral Call for Encampment Empathy

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Kevin Makins and I live at [REDACTED], just north of James and Barton. My wife and I have lived in the area for nearly a decade, and are raising two children, Clementine and Oscar (5 and 2yo respectively).



This is a long email but as someone who has lived and served in this city for nearly fifteen years, I believe that I have the right to speak to my leadership with honesty and nuance.

I first fell in love with Hamilton when running a summer camp at Beasley Park. Since then my life has revolved around our downtown.

My wife and I have started multiple businesses and engaged politically and socially in the culture of the city. Eleven years ago I founded a young church in downtown Hamilton (Eucharist Church) which has been spotlighted and celebrated multiple times by local institutions such as CBC Hamilton and the Spec. A few years ago I gave the address at our Remembrance Day service, which was celebrated on the front page with the headline "[Hamilton Millennials Come Out for Remembrance Day](#)". Our congregation is made up largely of people in their twenties and thirties, who are raising children downtown, and working diligently to serve their neighbours and contribute to the ever evolving spirit of our city. We recently bought the 127 year-old Romanian Baptist Church on Victoria Ave and have sacrificed significant time and money to bring it back to life. Our congregation partners with local organizations such as Indwell, 541 Eatery and Exchange, and Shalem Mental Health Network. Beyond this, many in our community are present and future leaders in the field of health care and social work.

I list the above not to brag or to get your attention, but because we would all agree that raising up the next generation is *always* crucial to the long term flourishing of a city.

So I am asking you, as one such younger voice, to please hear us on this crucial topic.

Everyone I know under the age of 40 can agree on one thing when it comes to the topic of homelessness in Hamilton: We don't want encampments in our city parks.

What we want is safe, accessible, humane housing for our neighbours who have nowhere to live.

We need to recognize how we got here.

Hamilton was once an accessible place to live, whether you had a good salary or depended on Government assistance. When we bought our house it was accessible to us on a pastor's salary. Three years later the property had tripled in value and would have never been affordable to a family like ours. My neighbours, including many across the street at the Witton Lofts (50 Murray St W) often celebrated that news, saying that they "got in on a good investment."

But I did not celebrate the fact that my property has tripled (now quadrupled) in value. I'm not going anywhere. I want to love my neighbourhood for decades and contribute to a thick fabric of community. I want to help build a neighbourhood of connection, where we look out for one another, where we spend time together, and where we can together respond to the challenges facing us. The increase in the "value" of my home simply meant I pay more in taxes, and that none of my friends could ever move into my neighbourhood.

I would like to think the best of those who were celebrating the increased "value" of their condos, but it is hard for me to do so, because only seven years later only *two* of those original owners still live in the building (to my knowledge). The rest were happy to make a few hundred thousand dollars and move on.

Who bought the condo off them? How much will they make on it at sale (presumably in a few years)? And how many times can this exchange go on before even underground shoebox units are going for over a million dollars? And who will live there then? And how will the neighbourhood ever be affordable again?

Forgive this brief detour, but it's important we put encampments in context, because they didn't occur in a vacuum.

As someone born and raised in Hamilton I find it shocking that I have *never seen* consistent encampments until this last year, and I am positive Covid was not the main contributing factor: The lack of accessible, affordable housing is the main issue.

But rather than deal with the predatory housing market, the dozens and dozens (and dozens) of advertisements in my mailbox every week (telling me that "now is the perfect time to \$ELL"), or the moral failure of our institutional leaders to engage this issue with empathy and solution focused thinking... we are blaming those in tents for... living in tents.

They don't want to be in tents either. But the options we have on the table are not good enough. They are simply not good enough.

The biblical book of Proverbs teaches that the *righteous* are those who are willing to sacrifice their good for the sake of the community.

The *wicked* are those who sacrifice the community for the sake of their own good.

City Councillors and others reading: I am appealing to your conscience. I am not asking you to do something that you think is wrong. I believe that in your heart you know what is good and true.

You know that condo developers and night club owners are not speaking like the righteous. They are concerned with their own benefits, and while it's disappointing, I do not expect more from them.

But Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors... I do expect more from you. You are put in this place to act justly, to do what is right regardless of political games, and to guide our city into the way of peace.

Let's begin, like Christ did, with empathy for those on the margins. The investors and business owners will not lose their lives or housing while we are sorting this out. Those on the margins of our city have and will.

I do not have concrete next steps, but I suspect plenty of capable people are working on solutions. I am simply calling for our attention to be in the right place: On those who are most vulnerable.

Let's refuse to do anything that is not serving their needs over our own.

If there is any other way I can share, pray, or serve you as you seek to lead us in this complicated area, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kevin Makins,
Founding Pastor, Eucharist Church
kevin@eucharistchurch.ca

4.11(nn)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: URGENT Encampment evictions

From: Amber Boyle
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:29 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: URGENT Encampment evictions

As a Ward 2 resident of the City of Hamilton, I wholeheartedly DO NOT support encampment evictions. I DO NOT support the decisions regarding encampments being made by housed and privileged individuals on behalf of our unhoused and impoverished neighbors.

The City of Hamilton has no right to speak on the behalf of the unhoused when The City of Hamilton is willfully choosing to criminalize the unhoused, while simultaneously being at the root of the housing crisis. How atrocious.

The City of Hamilton continues to prioritize profit over people. The City of Hamilton continues to encourage investment landlords to displace individuals and families from their affordable housing by issuing renovation (renoviction) grants. The City of Hamilton continues to allow rents to sky rocket beyond the affordability of its average citizen.

Due to this blatant classist discrimination, The City of Hamilton has single handedly created this desperate situation, and is subsequently punishing those who suffer the consequences. Jason Farr represents my Ward but he does not speak for me. Stop the encampment evictions immediately and permanently until there is affordable and accessible housing for every individual in this City, otherwise may the blood of the dead be directly on your hands this winter.

Amber Boyle - Ward 2

4.11(00)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Homeless Encampments

From: Brandi Matthews
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:58 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Info@hesn.ca
Subject: Homeless Encampments

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the homeless crisis that is currently taking place in our city.

The pandemic has taken a toll on many, and the homeless population has not only increased, but it has been hit the hardest.

The city's plan to evict these encampments is absolutely despicable. It is inhumane and is going to make things worse. At least with these encampments, the homeless are able to have a roof over their heads. Our city does not have affordable housing for the most vulnerable population.

What are we doing to help these people? The shelters are full. There is many more homeless than beds available. With the winter months coming things will only be worse. We are literally talking life and death here. These complaints that have been received by concerned residents are just based on privilege, and it's not right. Especially that complaint from the owner of 77 night club which has been a home to many murders, fights, and drug use. He has no right to make comments about the homeless.

Bottom line. We need more affordable housing. These people need support. We should be fighting for the homeless.

I actually saw an ad today for a basement apartment for \$2000! It's no wonder why we are in this situation. Our community needs to come together to help these people, evicting them is not the solution!

How can you live with yourselves allowing this to happen? Where is the humanity?

I truly hope that council can come up with a more humane solution to this crisis. They are people too, and deserve so much better.

Signed, a concerned citizen.

> Thank you,
>
>
> Brandi Matthews

4.11 (PP)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampments

From: Mackenzie Glachan
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:59 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Encampments

To whom it may concern,

Criminalizing encampments and unhoused people is despicable. Instead of wasting time and resources fighting the people in these encampments, we should be addressing the gross cost of living in this city and access to basic human necessities.

Encampments are not the problem, they are a *symptom* of the REAL problem – lack of resources and support (not to mention a lack of care and empathy for the unhoused and especially disabled people).

The message could not be more simple at it's core: HELP people, do not fight people. Criminalizing encampments only perpetuates the problem and solves nothing.

I am vehemently against the ableism, classism, and racism rampant in this city. Hamilton should stand for community and listen to all voices, not just those with power and privilege.

I'd like this submission to be included in the October 27th Council agenda.

Regards,
MG

4.11(99)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment Enforcement

From: June Make

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:58 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Encampment Enforcement

SUBMISSION TO BE INCLUDED IN HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ON 27 OCTOBER 2021.

To Hamilton City Council,

I live in a house mere steps away from Beasley Park and not too far from Club 77. I also rent a studio space downtown. I have lived in, worked in and spent my paycheque in this area for approximately the last twelve years.

Reading the work of fiction produced by Club 77, Jason Farr and others on 19 October would have been laughable if it wasn't so offensive. In fact, I believe it is not that long ago that many people in our community were rallied together to combat the violence and public urination that was a direct result of the negligence by Club 77. The City investigated Club 77 for the reasons they currently blame on our housing crisis in September of 2016. Hmm.

People need real, permanent housing. Not shelters and not hotels. Kicking someone out of a tent does not magically give them a house or teleport them away. They are still here, and they deserve our compassion and assistance. Everyone, houseless or homed require access to safe, public washrooms 24 hours of the day. There is no reason the city can't provide this. The city simply refuses to.

STOP evicting my neighbors, and anyone who has to live in a tent unless you're offering them a safe and permanent space. Numerous studies have shown that offering housing has so many benefits beyond being the right thing to do, it's also more successful and cost effective than needlessly policing people and destroying their possessions.

I walked by a few tents this morning from my house on my way to work. And I want them gone, and I want them gone because they have safe, secure, dignified housing. Not because I'm so entitled it offends me to see someone hurting while I am warm and dry with a working washroom. I have no issues with people living in tents while our city is facing a housing crisis perpetuated by greed, because greed is the issue not the tents. I have issues with people— my neighbors, living in tents because our city won't help them while people who think they are neighbors harass the houseless. That's not what being a neighborhood is about. Chasing people away isn't community. Helping people and looking out for each other is what makes a City a community.

Please, City of Hamilton. Housing for all.

Do better, Hamilton.

Signed,
June Make

SUBMISSION TO BE INCLUDED IN HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ON 27 OCTOBER 2021

4.11(rr)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Written Submission re: encampments

From: blake mccall
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:42 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Written Submission re: encampments

To whom it may concern,

Please find this mail as a written submission regarding Encampment Evictions. I would like it included on the Oct 27th council agenda.

My name is Blake McCall. I have lived in Hamilton for about 15 years and currently own a home and pay taxes in Ward 4. I was extremely upset when I read the a few of the delegations to council this past week and more generally council's decisions regarding our encampment neighbors. I am writing this today to implore council to change their minds and let the residents stay. As winter approaches, I do not want to see more people die in my community for reasons so uncaring and unjust as worries about patio furniture and smell of urine. The callousness of city council to write policy that so willfully neglect human life is something I find simply startling and that I know history will not look fondly on. Encampment residents are the result of the failures of the system we live in. But even within the realm of capitalism and white supremacy reforms can be made to ensure the most vulnerable among us are not cast to die as abject others in the city. Yet this council seems perfectly okay with their deaths. The policy decisions that this council makes put us in this nightmare where neighbors turn on neighbors while the city at best turns a blind eye and at worst actively encourages it.

There are other options available so can you please explain these policies decisions. Why are we criminalizing houseless folks for trying to stay alive? What is council doing regarding rents that are spiking out of control? On greedy landlords renovicting long-term residents so they can jack up the rent? On condo developers only building homes that are outside the realm of affordability not only for houseless folks but 80 percent of the population? How is it good policy to waste my tax dollars on harassing and criminalizing people who are just trying to live their lives? How much money has been and will be wasted by the police, by bylaw, by sanitation workers to pick on folks that have nothing? How much of that money could be put into actual supportive and dignified housing to transform our city in one that is caring and compassionate? (please note shelters are not caring, supportive or dignified housing so please stop claiming that they are).

We are living in an uncertain world where the actions of our elected officials today will have long term consequences and chart a path on whether people believe they will be able to work within the system to make change or whether we need to build something new. So will you make policy decisions to allow for the most vulnerable to live their lives or will you push people to take their own actions to stop the deaths of their neighbors you are needlessly causing.

Regards,
Blake McCall

4.11 (SS)

Dear Members of City Council and Fellow Hamiltonians:

Not so long ago, we were holding onto the best kept secret in Canada. This city, with its vibrant culture, strong community, thriving arts scene, incredible geography and centralized location was something not many people outside of Hamilton seemed to acknowledge or care about. We were cool with that because we knew we had a good thing going here- and we still do!

However, as we now know, the secret's out. Individuals from every corner of the province, the country and the globe have come to Hamilton to visit, live and work and discovered just how beautiful this city really is. While the influx of new Hamiltonians has definitely made our city an even better place to be, it has also contributed to increased demand for housing as well as an astronomical rise in property values and rents. This in turn, has lead to the housing crisis we have been experiencing over the course of the last few years. There is no way to sugar-coat the situation: *this is a housing crisis and it requires our immediate attention.*

Sadly, the amount of deliberation and debate surrounding housing has been far greater than any concrete action taken to address this issue. We are now faced with the reality that many of our brothers and sisters are residing in tents rather than safe, affordable homes. I would like to submit to council that the solution to this issue is not to simply take down the tents and move on. The issue of homelessness affects every person in this city and when even one individual is living in precarious, inadequate or dehumanizing circumstances, our *entire community* feels the negative effects of this reality. Residence's concerns regarding vandalism, safety etc are not a result of homelessness. They are the direct result of the social inequality that has created conditions where homelessness can thrive.

As a concerned Hamiltonian, I would urge council to take immediate action. This city already owns a myriad of locations which can easily be used as affordable housing units and I would also suggest that council consider imposing a rent ceiling so that rents in Hamilton can once again become both reasonable and affordable for all those who call Hamilton home.

Sincerely,
Leo Dragtoe

Kevin Simms
Ward 1 Resident

4.11(11)

22 October 2021

City of Hamilton
ATTN: Clerk
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

To City Council:

RE: Delegations to Planning Committee opposing encampments

I am a long-time resident of Wards 1 and 2 in Hamilton. I have read excerpts of delegations made to the City's Planning Committee concerning houseless people and the encampments where they live.

Many of these delegations perpetuated the othering of houseless people in the City. They made claims about encampments that are either unsupported by facts, or wilfully blind to the reality that houseless people have nowhere else to live, or both.

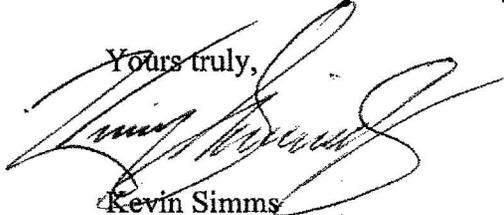
They peddle the lie endorsed by Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr, that the people who live in encampments are not Hamiltonians. The implication that these human beings don't deserve the basic right to security of person is reprehensible.

If you are concerned that there is danger for encampment residents and their neighbours due to the conditions in encampments, you owe it to every citizen to ensure safe and appropriate housing is available for encampment residents now. You owe it to all of us to eliminate the Hamilton Housing waitlist now.

Listening exclusively to the concerns of housed people like these delegates and all of you, serves no one. To date, the City has failed to ensure safe, stable, permanent housing for encampment residents. This does a disservice to all Hamiltonians.

I and thousands of other Hamiltonians want to see you ensure the safety of all Hamiltonians. We want you to prioritize the fundamental rights and safety of those most vulnerable to violence, and discrimination based on housing status.

Yours truly,



Kevin Simms

cc.: Hamilton Encampment Support Network

4.11(uu)

To Hamilton City Council,

I am writing as a citizen of Ward 2 who is deeply concerned and frustrated by the City of Hamilton's policy towards unhoused citizens. For the last year I have spent time getting to know my unhoused neighbours, learning about their experiences without permanent shelter in a city that is filled with empty houses. The delegations to the city's most recent Planning Committee meeting speak to the hatred and stigma that unhoused folks face every day from the most powerful people and institutions in our society. In the face of this, unhoused citizens respond with the most natural human impulse: to form community. These communities—encampments on stolen public and private land—keep unhoused residents safe.

The only people qualified to decide whether or not shelters are an alternative are the people who are being asked to live in them. Shelters impose a number of dehumanizing conditions on residents. To enter a shelter one must sacrifice their pets, the majority of their possessions, and their access to community. Shelters subject unhoused residents to noise, violence, and arbitrary rules (that would never be applied to me in the home I rent) like a prohibition on smoking, drinking, and drug use which, for people with substance use issues, could kill them. This doesn't happen in the encampment communities where these citizens choose to live. If the city continues to fail to provide safe, permanent, housing for unhoused members of our community, then it is only just to allow these citizens to survive as best they can in the communities they choose for themselves on stolen public and private land. Whether due to unlivable conditions or a lack of space, unhoused folks will continue to choose what is best for themselves and form encamped communities rather than sacrifice their belongings, pets, and friends for a shelter space. The city's destruction of these communities makes it impossible for encampment residents to prepare for the winter, and scatters them away from supports that keep them alive, and are as good as murder.

There are two tales of encampments in Hamilton. The first is told by city councillors like Jason Farr: that encampments are unsafe and that citizens would be better off in shelters. The second is told by Jason Farr's real constituents, affluent members of our society, business owners, and generally speaking people living in safe permanent housing, that encampments drive down property values, make it difficult for entrepreneurs to continue gentrifying the city, and get in the way of efforts to make parks look nicer. The former narrative is really cover for the latter. If the city doesn't step up now and guarantee the right of encampment residents to seek safety in community on stolen public and private land, we, the many citizens in this city who care about our unhoused neighbours, will never forget. Come election time we will be organized, and you will have to answer for the deaths you are causing. Perhaps you've lost touch with basic human decency so let me remind you: **making parks nicer for housed citizens and businesses isn't a justification for killing people.**

With Sincere Rage,

James Lambert

October 22, 2021

4.11 (vv)

To the Hamilton City Council,

My name is Garrett Johnson, and I am a resident of Ainslie Wood West in Hamilton. I'm writing to contest delegations made regarding housing encampments and the effect they are having on your neighbourhoods and their residents (whose interests you have the duty to represent). I would like this submission to be included in the Oct. 27 Council Agenda. I'd like to begin with a definition of resident:

"RESIDENT, persons. A person coming into a place with intention to establish his domicile or permanent residence, and who in consequence actually remains there. Time is not so essential as the intent, executed by making or beginning an actual establishment, though it be abandoned in a longer, or shorter period." (Bouvier's Law Dictionary)

I'm wondering if there were any efforts made to hear from residents living permanently in your city and currently in encampments to speak on issues being brought forward regarding these encampments. Surely it is understandable that in any issue there may be multiple perspectives that influence the understanding of a situation, and that all known perspectives be considered when practicing due diligence.

It is an unfortunate problem that in our society there is a situation where many people are unable to find safe housing and services to maintain their wellbeing. A pandemic will inevitably limit resources available to the city to provide for these people and therefore resources available to the residents in encampments.

This problem is a societal issue, and I suggest a slightly different perspective when looking to solve it than the one I have inferred when reading delegate submissions. A more holistic and long-term method for any city to improve the reputation and aesthetic of security and safety for *homeowners* in neighbourhoods is not to evacuate undesirable constituents but to provide solutions to the initial problem. The problem is not that there are dirty, seemingly mentally ill people living in neighbourhoods alongside "normal", clean, affluent people who have no experience interacting with poverty – the problem is that there are no solutions for people who fall into poverty that also provide similar freedom, dignity, and mobility to encampments. If the evacuation method is taken, and voluntary (and comparable) situations or programs alternative to encampments are not provided, the issue will continue to come back indefinitely.

I would here provide a reminder that the status quo actions of government has been to represent taxpayers and homeowners, and not necessarily all residents or inhabitants of a city. Though not all non-taxpayers are ignored (eg. children, people in hospitals, elderly, etc.), houseless adult populations are not often considered which perhaps implies an assumption that they *will never be* taxpayers or homeowners.

Regarding the delegation from Paul McDonald, owner of Club 77, I would suggest that it may be more likely that the hundreds of people drinking alcohol (a known diuretic) in his establishment may be urinating on his property more frequently than the houseless residents in his neighbourhood. I would

also bring up to the city that there is a severe lack of resources for public washrooms that has become an issue during the pandemic which no doubt we have all recognized at some point while going for a walk or driving in the city and finding previous restrooms in gas stations and restaurants to be closed to the public.

In closing, I would recommend that when balancing the issues of safety, and rights to life and security, that residents in one socioeconomic class not be put above those of another socioeconomic class. Equal weight should be applied to concerns regarding encampments from those residing in the encampments and for those who live in houses next to them. Though homelessness is an issue that has been present in cities for most of history, we should consider that so too was common dysentery, cholera, and open sewage in streets up until very recent history. With this understanding we may consider ourselves less helpless to greater problems, and that there may be solutions – though they require an empathy we currently do not possess.

Thank you,

Garrett Johnson

[REDACTED]

4.11 (WW)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: For October 27th Planning Committee Meeting

From: Klyde Broox

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:00 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; info@hesn.ca

Subject: For October 27th Planning Committee Meeting

To: The Hamilton City Council Planning Committee

Submission on: Item 9.3 on the October 19th meeting agenda: Motion for Enforcement of Encampment Bylaws.

Hello respective Committee Members,

I am an ordinary Hamiltonian who has been both homeowner and renter in our beloved city. I have recently had to seek housing accommodation when the apartment I had been renting was sold. During the period of uncertainty between getting notice to vacate and securing new accommodation, I was particularly depressed and had to struggle to keep myself focused on day-to-day tasks. Therefore, I am thinking that if just the suggestion of possible homelessness depressed and distracted me so much, then, literally homeless people with addiction issues, and/or mental health challenges should be even more depressed, distressed, distracted and stress. I also base my position on the premise that "housing is a human right". Thus, I am, obviously, somewhat biased for the encampment residents.

On the other hand, when I used to be a homeowner I lived at Jackson and Dundurn facing Jackson Park and my kids used to call the park their "office" when they were growing up, so I can understand the extent of a homeowner's anxiety at an encampment in your neighbourhood park. I do get what I saw while watching the video of the delegations on the encampment issue, the homeowners and business owner's perspective. I comprehend the empathy fatigue, the anxiety over property security, personal security, the angst derived from having something unpleasant affecting one's daily life, one's sense of taxpayer's privilege. I believe the delegate who says the "human element is not lost on us".

In response, I suggest that all those stresses and anxieties are multiplied tenfold, perhaps a hundred-fold for the homeless. Let us balance empathy fatigue and compassion weariness with consideration for the endurance fatigue and resiliency weariness of the homeless. Encampments have been going on for a year. As far as the houseless are concerned, homelessness has been going on forever. Lamentably, I think all criminal activity in encampment surroundings become stereotypically linked to encampments, leading to an unfortunate conflation of homelessness and lawlessness

I seek here to respectfully remind respective committee members of City Council's relative responsibility to provide security for every sector of society. I also think it is unfair to claim that encampment residents "seem to have a stronger voice", in Hamilton, when it is only the effort of advocacy and agency by safely housed people that has represented the homeless who are too busy surviving that ongoing trauma to advocate for themselves as home and business owners are doing in the video I watched. Please, do not let the subtextual notion of the entire presentation that it is the privileged community and committee versus the homeless and severely underprivileged. The call for increased enforcement was much louder than the whispers and asides about housing for the homeless, the enforcement of the human right to housing must outweigh the enforcement of by laws and homeowners and business owners property rights, especially since the encampments are on public property.

City Hall must solve the encampment problem by finding housing for the homeless in currently empty housing units in the city. Personally, I support secure respectable relocation instead of summary eviction.

Sincerely,

Klyde Broox

4.11 (XX)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW:

From: Kat Williams

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:00 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject:

Dear City of Hamilton Planning Committee and Councillor Farr,

As a worker in Ward 2 in the North End, I'd like to object to some of the disturbing testimonies of some of my neighbours who are blaming systemic municipal issues on vulnerable individuals in our community and our fellow neighbours who are sleeping rough.

The encampments are not the problem in Hamilton; a lack of affordable housing and safe, supportive spaces that serve our community is. Why are we criminalizing poverty, a lack of housing, and mental health? Why do folks who are already suffering bear the brunt of the ignorance and fear of their more affluent neighbours as well as humiliation, and dehumanization enacted by Hamilton's police force and social services professionals?

We have never had any issues with our encampment neighbours at our workplace and I am worried for them now that the weather is turning cold. We need committees like yours to move forward with broad-spectrum solutions to issues like access to clean public washrooms, safe, supported spaces for recreational drug use, warming areas and dignified places to sleep that are accessible to folks with disabilities, families, and pets. Please include this in the Oct 27th council agenda.

Respectfully,
Kat Williams

4.11(YY)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment Enforcement Discussions

From: Hannah MacDonald
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:59 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Encampment Enforcement Discussions

To whom it may concern,

My name is Hannah, I live and work in Ward 3. I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the delegations that took place during the Encampment Enforcement discussions. People who live in encampments are *people*, our neighbours, not some nuisance to be callously swept under the rug.

I urge council to approach Hamilton's housing crisis with compassion, and not just for the condo owners who can't afford patio furniture. Would the money spent policing and tearing down encampments not be better spent coming up with real housing solutions?

Please include my submission in the October 27th Council agenda.

Thank you!

Hannah MacDonald

4.11(22)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: encampments

From: nicole tollenaar
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:59 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: encampments

Greetings.

This email is in regards to the Planning Committee delegations that took place with respect to Encampment Enforcement discussions pushed forward by my Councillor; Jason Farr.

My understanding is that the current wait for affordable housing in Hamilton is three to five years, with over 5,000 people on that list*. At the same time, prices for housing have soared by approx 23%* and rental prices have also skyrocketed 24% - both in the last year alone.

As a front-line worker I am well aware that there is a disconnect between the narrative that the city pushes; that Hamilton has adequate shelter space to provide for anyone who needs it. However, as someone who works directly with shelters throughout the city, I'm well aware that people are turned away due to mental health complexities, substance use, service restrictions, ect and that many shelters have barriers, like curfews and inflexible policies, that ensure some folks cannot access them. Likewise, shelters can be violent, traumatic, and unsafe (re: covid outbreaks, theft, stigma, ableism, ect) environments and should not be the only options for those who do not feel like shelters provide a safe space.

While every individual within the encampments surely deserves better, the options in the hamilton shelter system or on an abysmally long waitlist are currently woefully adequate. When my councillor pushes to evict these encampments, I see a councillor who is trying to invisibilize and demonize those in our community who are trying to survive.

Below I have included references

*[Hamilton gets \\$10.8M for affordable housing units, but it has to build them fast | CBC News](#)

*[Hamilton home prices rise in Q2 of 2021, expert says appreciation likely to slow - Hamilton | Globalnews.ca](#)

I would like to formally note that I would like my submission included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

thanks,
nicole tollenaar
ward 2

4.11(aaa)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment Support

From: Natalie Castellino

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:58 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Encampment Support

We urgently need you to voice your support for encampment residents. We cannot stress this enough - it is absolutely a matter of life and death. Winter is almost upon us. People died last winter, and will die this winter. Criminalizing encampments is not support. To echo a quote circulating this week: we used to fight homelessness, when did we start fighting the houseless?

Natalie Castellino (she/her)

4.11 (bbb)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission to be included in the Oct 27 Council Agenda regarding encampment enforcement

From: Navin Garg

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:58 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Submission to be included in the Oct 27 Council Agenda regarding encampment enforcement

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this submission to contest the current delegations.

A quick read through the current delegations makes it clear that the current focus of these individuals is in prioritizing their own comfort over that of unhoused individuals. For example, Paul McDonald complained about the smell of urine surrounding his club, and blamed it on encampment residents, using this as a justification for the removal of said encampments. This illustrates the ways in which the profit and comfort of housed individuals is being prioritized over the ability of encampment residents to perform basic bodily functions. Furthermore, it is the city's responsibility to ensure that safe and clean public restrooms are accessible to the public.

Given the fact that many encampment residents have been banned by shelters, which themselves are often unsafe, there is no safe environment other than encampments for people to live. Even when residents are admitted into shelters, it is only as a temporary "band-aid" solution to the endemic issue of houselessness.

Considering these facts, it is clear that the only real solution to houselessness is the construction of permanent and stable housing where people can live and be safe in their own private space. The removal of encampments is both unethical and unfeasible; if the amount of permanent housing available is insufficient for the unhoused population of hamilton, there is no place for people to live other than in encampments. All that is achieved by destroying an encampment is the further marginalization of it's residents. If sustainable, safe, long-term housing was made available, people would have no need for encampments; the inhumane, excessive, criminal violence currently used to destroy them could no longer be excused by those who seek to perpetrate it.

Thank you for your time,
Navin

4.11(ccc)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Written Delegation: Encampments

From: Laurel Carter

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:57 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written Delegation: Encampments

I would like this submission to be included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

Hamilton councillors, neighbours and friends.

I am writing with the utmost of concern for our neighbours in tents in Hamilton. The pandemic has hit the city hard in many ways, but one of the most glaring is the increased wealth disparity and access to resources for our unhoused neighbours.

Food insecurity is at an all-time high, and many of the resources that were once available to citizens disappeared during the pandemic. Mutual aid groups have emerged throughout this pandemic to try and play a part in supporting those facing houselessness and food insecurity, but they are only a bandaid, and not a true systemic solution. I'm a part of the group who has implemented Community Fridges in three locations across the city and the intense need from the community for these fridges is deeply troubling. When we went to build a list of other food resources to post on the fridges for when folks found them empty, many of the places we called were either closed for access or operating under drastically reduced hours or accessibility due to the pandemic. Protecting collective safety from Covid-19 meant that unhoused people could not freely access food resources like donation banks and kitchens. Less people walking and carrying cash meant that less small funds were flowing to them through their neighbours. Less beds in shelters meant less access to roofed accommodations and a serious decline in safety when beds were available to them.

Shelters are, unfortunately, not accessible to all those who need them. Violently removing communities of people, our neighbours, from parks is inhumane. The city cannot, and has acknowledged that they cannot, ensure that there are always beds available - and even when they are, the shelters do not guarantee a safer night than sleeping in a tent where you feel safe.

We have seen what encampment tear-downs look like in the United States and in Toronto. The brutal police presence at Lamport Street cost the city \$2M and saw police responding violently to both unhoused people and those who showed up to support them. We saw entire tents and belongings torn down and trashed, people thrown to the ground, trauma caused. And \$2M wasted on an excessive show of police force that could have gone towards creating more sustainable long-term affordable housing.

It's so easy for those of us with wealth, with homes, with stability, to sit and discuss the existence of people in tents in parks. It's so easy to complain from high horses about the "inconvenience" these people are apparently giving us. And it's deeply disturbing to hear so many of our neighbours here in Hamilton refer to human beings, who are trying their best to survive and thrive, as inconveniences. We are all just a few bad strokes of luck or circumstance away from food and housing insecurity. One job loss at a time of economic peril, a few missed payments on a mortgage or rent away from houselessness. At a time when we all claim to be "in this together", we need to ensure that "together" includes those who are impoverished, in need, and still our neighbours.

Please, please support our neighbours.

Laurel Carter
Ward 3 Resident

4.11 (ddd)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Please include this submission in the Oct 27 Council agenda -- regarding encampments in the City of Hamilton

From: David Mivasair

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:56 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Please include this submission in the Oct 27 Council agenda -- regarding encampments in the City of Hamilton

Dear Mayor and Council,

Homelessness has been with us for a very long time. It is not likely to end any time soon. Some 2,600 years ago, the Prophet Isaiah in the Bible taught that a moral response means materially caring for those in need, not making halfway measures. He said:

הָלוֹא פָּרַס לְרַעֲב לֶחֶמְךָ, וְעֲנִיִּים מְרוּדִים תְּבִיא בְּיַת
כִּי-תִרְאֶה עָרֹם וְכִסִּיתוֹ, וּמִבְּשָׂרְךָ לֹא תִתְעַלֵּם

Share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh.

In Hamilton, there are hundreds of homeless poor for whom there simply is no adequate housing. If we are not going to bring them into our own houses as the Prophet Isaiah teaches, and until adequate housing solutions are available, we as a society need at least to allow some places where they can create temporary homes for themselves because of having nowhere else that they find suitable.

There are many others in Hamilton who are far more experienced and knowledgeable than I am regarding this issue. I hope you will take their counsel and end the attempt to shut down encampments without providing adequate alternatives.

Thank you very much,

David

Rabbi David Mivasair

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."



Martin Luther King Jr.

4.11 (eee)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: October 27th Agenda Submission

From: Katie Sullivan
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:40 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: October 27th Agenda Submission

Good Morning,

I would like this delegation included in the October 27th council agenda.

I'd like to contest the delegations from October 19th regarding encampment enforcement discussions.

Out of sight, out of mind is the overarching theme I have observed in regards to the treatment of encampment residents in the city. Comments from delegations on the 19th reinforce this mindset and it's heartbreaking thinking that individuals took the time to put those tales together instead of being curious as to why the city is in the housing and mental health crisis it is in, or educating themselves on possible alternatives other than evicting people.

Calling the police on the "mentally disturbed", complaining about the smell of urine, and prioritizing patio furniture over human beings is shameful- especially coming from a white, housed group of delegates. Of course, it isn't any one of these delegates comments that capture the issues facing the city today. Altogether, they say something very important about the obvious divide in Hamilton and the individual approach some Hamiltonians have adopted (including council) when it comes to "protecting themselves" and making decisions about housing, care, and social services using a self-centered lens as opposed to a collective, community oriented approach. You may claim to be thinking of "the community" when you protect those who delegated on the 19th - but which voices are always missing and who are never protected?

Seeing encampments and making assumptions about how to "solve" them, without informing that solution with those currently living in one or with lived experiences themselves is inhumane, but also inefficient and unproductive. There are solutions to work towards ending our housing and mental health crisis - but a foundational shift needs to happen and I hope that city council will reflect and become further informed from the experts themselves: those who have lived experience. When council votes in the interest of yourselves and the interests of those without any sort of first-hand experience on issues that largely do not impact you, at least not in the ways that they do others - specifically Indigenous, Black, and POC families, women, people with disabilities and youth, you erase these identities in that process. When you say you care and then turn around and make exclusionary, oppressive policy, it is nothing more than performative compassion involving no real solidarity.

Shelters are unsafe and inaccessible for many, OW is nowhere near our cost of living in Hamilton, and we have only one safe injection site. Instead of complaining about isolated, symptoms of the real issues - think about what's underlying and stop blaming individuals for a system that has been built for them to fall through- a system we maintain when we ignore those with lived experiences. We collectively fail our communities when we ostracize and push people into the outskirts - if you move encampments, they will still exist, only further away, making it harder for everyone to care for one another and harder for anyone to access services they need. Winter is approaching and the death count that will start to climb should be weighing on the entire city, but especially council should you not consider long-term, well-rounded solutions informed by those with lived-experience.

The delegations from the 19th sounded to me like no one feels a sense of obligation, care or responsibility to any one else other than themselves- they don't see the housing crisis as having anything to do with them, however it does. These delegates have been failed by the city as well - as they clearly haven't been given an example

of collectivity or the interconnectivity of community - how everyone's actions impact one another and our roles in both the successes and failures of city issues. The city I dream of living in sees inequalities and inequities as impacting everyone. If we only prioritize the comfort of some we will always be failing everyone. I urge council to set a new example of a way forward - listening and honouring the entire community, not just those who are easier for council to care for. We cannot continue to ignore underlying systemic injustices. Council can lead its community in that direction if it so chooses. Hamilton is full of amazing and beautiful people - I spend my time here with many people in encampments and those who are housed. We need to do better, this is not about moving people and ignoring the roots of problems for selfish purposes. I hope if nothing else this letter has given you room for reflection and nudged you to turn to organizations like HESN, DJNO, the Legal Clinic and HCCI for insight into community care and justice work.

Thank you for your time,
Katie Sullivan

4.11(fff)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW:

From: Alexa MacKenzie

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:38 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject:

Please include my submission in the October 27th agenda.

Dear Hamilton City Council,

As a housed resident in Ward 3, every day I see the impact that the housing crisis has had on our vulnerable population: in the alleyway behind my house, in the parks where I walk my dog, and the businesses I frequent. The encampments that have become more apparent over the pandemic are a stark reminder of the inequalities in our city. These include rising rent and housing costs, loss of employment, and most severely, the lack of social supports. Even when these exist, they are often operated with barriers that exclude the people who need them the most.

I think the encampment residents and other citizens can agree that encampments are not an ideal solution to a complex problem. However, criminalizing houselessness only exacerbates the issue and serves nothing other than optics and privilege.

I call on you, the city council, to see the encampment residents as real human beings who deserve to be valued over private property or business. In concrete terms, this means not criminalizing houselessness. I beg you to shift this direction and delegate with empathy.

I stand in solidarity with my unhoused neighbours.

Sincerely,
Alexa MacKenzie

4.11 (ggg)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: Submission for planning committee meeting on Oct 27th, 2021- please include

From: Cait MacLennan Penman

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:35 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Submission for planning committee meeting on Oct 27th, 2021- please include

Hello,

My name is Caitlin MacLennan Penman and I am a homeowner and resident of Ward 1. My spouse and I own 58 Magill St. where we reside with our three young children. I am writing today to express my support for my houseless neighbour and to express my dismay at the prospect of criminalizing the encampments.

Encampments are in no way ideal or aspirational. However, the current housing crisis that we find ourselves in, specifically the lack of affordable, safe housing has left some of our neighbours with no other options. It is not unreasonable to not want to stay in an unsafe shelter system during a pandemic (especially when Covid19 outbreaks occurred again and again over the past 18 months). Unhoused people are not criminals. Encampments are an indictment of an unjust system, not a homeless individual. If encampments are criminalized, where do those opposed suggest that unhoused people go? At the root of it, dismantling and criminalizing the encampments, without offering actual housing, suggests a complete lack of regard for human life. People who are unhoused are as deserving of life and security as property owners. It is not illegal to exist. It is not illegal to make wealthier, property owners feel uncomfortable.

As I mentioned above, we have three small children. There are a number of tents and encampments in our neighbourhood that we pass by regularly, including at the end of our street and in the park where our church's children's programming takes place. Our children are not afraid nor have they ever been "bothered" by anyone in an encampment. Rather, they are dismayed at the fact that we live in a city where there is not enough affordable housing for everyone. We do not feel threatened, scared or "put out" by our houseless neighbours. We feel scared of a city that is trying to criminalize our neighbours. We feel worried that we live in a society that considers the value of a property worth more than the value of a human life. How could I worry more about the property value of my house when so many of my neighbours cannot afford a safe and dry place to sleep. I think we need to be honest when we hear arguments against the encampment in relation to property values. Our house has increased substantially in value since we moved in April 2020. This is a privilege that we are afforded because we have access to health, education and capital.

As winter approaches, I worry that some of my neighbours will die. Criminalizing the encampments will exacerbate this. I do not want the city to be fighting my houseless neighbours. I want the city to be working to create ways to keep my neighbours safer, and this includes investment in housing and health.

Sincerely,

Caitlin MacLennan Penman

4.11(hhh)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: homeless in Hamilton: for inclusion in Agenda for Oct 27th

From: John Bowen

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:02 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: homeless in Hamilton: for inclusion in Agenda for Oct 27th

Dear Councillors:

We are writing in support of the efforts of the Hamilton Encampment Support Network.

As home owners ourselves, we understand the concerns of those who are affected negatively by encampments. But the issue is not one-sided.

We believe that a mark of a civilized society is how we treat the marginalized among us. They lack the resources to give them the quality of life our society thinks are basic to human dignity. They become “the canary in the coalmine”: their hardship is a warning sign to the rest of society that we are not as healthy as we like to think, and in the long run we will all suffer.

Speaking as Christians, we are challenged by Jesus’ command to love our neighbours as ourselves—which means that those who are houseless should be treated with at least the same consideration and respect as those living in condos and single-family dwellings. The poor are no less bearers of the image of God than the rich, and therefore are due equal dignity and care.

We urge Council not simply to criminalize the encampments, nor to assume, “Oh, they can go to the shelters,” but to seek humane, long-term solutions.

Sincerely,

John P. Bowen (Professor Emeritus, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto)

Deborah C. Bowen (Professor Emerita, Redeemer University)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Community Concern

From: Erica Ames
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:21 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Community Concern

Hello,
I am writing today out of concern for my unhoused community members residing in Hamilton. I grew up in the general Hamilton area and have studied Law & Society and Human Rights at Laurier. I am continuously disappointed by the city's response to the housing crisis and lack of response to social resources. This last year and a half additional conditions like the pandemic and the housing market skyrocketing has created dire housing insecurity. That's why reading the recent delegations put forth by small business owners, like Paul McDonald of Club 77, is so aggravating. The conditions these affluent community members are complaining about are results of failures in social policy. These delegations were written by folks who clearly lack in bandwidth and the ability to understand the social factors, misuse of government funding and socioeconomic elements to the "issues" (lack of resources) of unhoused folks. Prioritizing optics and capital is NOT going to solve the obvious consequences of a housing crisis. Affordable housing, free housing, basic income, social resources, more public washrooms, safe injection sites, and other harm reductive initiatives are actions the city can make to create a more thriving community in Hamilton. Is the city listening to the voices of folks who have better, innovative and humane answers? I invite the city to listen to the youth activists, academics and study other global communities with lower houseless rates. Instead of taking complaints from business owners and making harsh decisions with no consideration for the LIVES of people they are discussing.

Thank you for reading,

Erica

Pilon, Janet

Subject: submission for OCT 27TH COUNCIL AGENDA

From: Cara & Mark Siska

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:27 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: submission for OCT 27TH COUNCIL AGENDA

I dont know where my daughter slept last night. Or the night before. She is one of the many people in Hamilton at the moment experiencing homelessness due to mental health issues and addiction. She has, in the past, climbed into a dirty, wet tent. Desperate to get away from a worse situation, and she was let in. It was safe for a night because someone, maybe worse off than her, allowed her to share their space. It's the humane thing to do. Even these vulnerable people who have so little know that. They werent always in this situation. Life has been better. Despite what you believe, it could be your kid one day. If their encampments are removed and deemed criminal, it will have just gotten a lot worse for everyone. Where do you think they will go?

The growing need for people to set up tents and call them home is a very tragic situation, and a blatant sign that SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SUPPORT THESE PEOPLE IN NEED. Mental health and addictions do make for messy living, as they try to survive from one day to the next. Thats a reality the rest of us have to accept. So, add a bathroom...enforce clean up as mandatory. Supply garbage cans. Until resources are available to help , there is no other option for these people trying to survive on nothing.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE used to be true. Not so much in this modern day. The neighbouring residents are inconvenienced , I wont deny that, but better actions need to be put into place. Hamilton has so many greenspaces that these MOTHERS, FATHERS, DAUGHTERS AND SONS, could use to protect themselves. Until theres a better solution, let them have some space.

Why not just go to a shelter? BECAUSE THAT IS NOT AN OPTION! THE SHELTERS FILL UP. PEOPLE ARE TURNED AWAY EVERY NIGHT. SOME PEOPLE DONT MEET THEIR "CRITERIA ". We all know that drug use and mental health crisis are on the rise. We have to face it, and deal with it! These PEOPLE are not "junkies" and "mentally disturbed" but real people that deserve to be treated with dignity and some compassion. Their lives did not always look like this. It can happen to anyone as I have had to witness. Its painful and its scary. This is not a choice, but survival. Those that are supporting criminalizing these encampments would feel differently if they were faced with a loved one whos life was at risk because Hamilton residents want to "clean up" the neighbourhood. It breaks my heart that society would rather keep things "looking good" than help their most vulnerable neighbours. We must do better. We have lost too many already. This is far too big to sweep under the rug. Making it criminal will just lead to bigger problems.

4.11(KKK)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: delegation for Oct 27th council meeting RE encampments

From: Kendra

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:29 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: delegation for Oct 27th council meeting RE encampments

Hello,

I am submitting a written delegation for the October 27th council meeting about encampments. I want my delegation included in the October 27th council agenda.

I am a member of the Hamilton community, and fortunately, I am lucky enough to have a safe place to live that I can call home. Having a place to call home is an innate human need. Everyone tries to make a home the best place they can, the best way they can. People who live in Hamilton's encampments are doing just that. Furthermore, they are members of our community who deserve to be treated with respect.

Like most people, seeing encampments in our community is upsetting to me. Walking by them triggers many feelings, such as fear, sadness, guilt, and anger. I know our public parks were not designed to be places for people to live. But what is gained by dismantling these encampments? People who live there will still have no place to go, and the dismantling process is dehumanizing and destroys any stability and safety that these people are trying to create in their lives. When the camp is dismantled, they will do their best to pick up the pieces and try to make a home at a different location, only for the cycle to be repeated. These encampments are not the problem. They are a direct consequence of our housing crisis and injustices in our society. Seeing encampments should make us uncomfortable and motivate us to mobilize our resources and concentrate our efforts on fixing the real problem.

Kendra Foord
Hamilton Resident

4.11(111)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampments in Our Community

From: Marin Hudson
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:22 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Encampments in Our Community

Good morning,

I am emailing to share a statement to be included in the October 27th Council agenda, regarding the existence and enforcement of encampments in our community.

I live in the Stinson neighbourhood and frequently walk or run the Escarpment Rail Trail near my home. I frequently see people living in encampments in my neighbourhood, or on my travels throughout the city. Not once have I felt unsafe due to the presence of these encampments. Instead, I feel enraged that our city claims to support our houseless residents while forcefully evicting them from their homes. I feel enraged that the city claims to be offering housing to these residents when that housing is not stable, safe, affordable and/or appropriate for their needs (especially for residents with disabilities).

The residents in our city deserve to live safely, sheltered from the elements and the inherent risks of living outdoors. They also deserve to live safely outdoors until safe, stable and appropriate housing is available. There are few things more harmful to these residents than the city making them feel unwelcome, encouraging other residents to fight against them, and forcefully dismantling encampments, evicting these residents and destroying their belongings.

I rent because I cannot afford to buy a home (nor to move to another rental property) due to the rising costs in our city. I own a business, yet I am much, much closer to being houseless than I am to owning a home. By evicting encampment residents, the city is destroying the little stability these folks have, eliminating any hope of feeling safe, and forcing these residents to fend for themselves with nowhere to go. As the winter weather approaches, encampment residents, especially those forced to constantly relocate with nowhere to go, will die. Lives will be lost due to the negligence of our city to provide safe, stable, appropriate housing. They will be lost because the city chooses to see those facing the greatest struggles as a burden on our community, instead of an indication that our community must do MORE to successfully care for and support our community.

Our encampments are not the problem. There is endless evidence to prove that more action is required to protect these residents and provide viable alternatives to encampments. Until then, the city should be providing safe locations for encampment residents to live while they improve shelters and create affordable housing.

There is so much more to be said, but it shouldn't need to be. Humans matter more than property. You are gambling with peoples' lives. Criminalizing encampments is not support. The City of Hamilton must do better.

Sincerely,

Marin Hudson
Ward 3

4.11(mmm)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment Enforcements

From: Meaghan Ross

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:35 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Encampment Enforcements

Hello,

I'm writing this email in response to the delegations made this week at the Hamilton Planning Committee with respect to encampment enforcement. I write as a resident of Ward 1, and as someone who has lived in Hamilton since 2004.

To be clear, the delegations made to Council are not representative of myself, nor are they representative of the ways of being valued by my friends, coworkers and communities.

It was appalling to hear such devaluation of my houseless neighbours - folks I live in community with - and to witness discrimination be given this platform; to continue to be told that folks living in encampments cause harm, that they are mentally 'disturbed', and that we should 'get rid of them'. What does that mean to say such things about another human being who lives besides you? How disconnected from your own humanity must you be to believe that the solution to a lack of affordable choice in housing is violent NIMBYism?

I believe we, in Hamilton, can do something different, something better - we can have communities where we don't hurt each other, where we don't destroy each other's houses, where we don't discriminate, where we don't have stigma, where we all have what we need, where we build and sustain public infrastructure like bathrooms and parks, where we have shelter from winter and the impacts of climate change, where we're treated with dignity and not disgust (and worse), where we hold each other's life and security with value.

In fact, I believe that you, Council, have a lot of power to make the above happen. That's a reality - you can radically change the infrastructure, supports, and norms in Hamilton. You can choose not to police, bylaw and shame your way out of the systemic problem of houselessness.

Please include my submission in the Oct 27th Council Agenda. Other voices need to be heard when we talk about encampments; primarily those of encampment residents, and then allies working in solidarity with them. Let my voice be one of many that stands with them so that you know your constituents do not want this harmful, exclusive, deadly version of 'community' you continue to prioritize.

Meaghan Ross,
Ward 1

4.11(nnn)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation - Oct 27th

From: Laura Katz
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:44 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Delegation - Oct 27th

Good morning I would like this to be included as an official delegation.

I am a resident in Ward 1 and absolutely disgusted and disturbed by the lack of empathy demonstrated by some council members with concerns around Encampment Enforcements.

Real people are living in these encampments. Living, breathing, suffering people. This is a matter of life and death. Winter is almost upon us. People died last winter, and people will die this winter. Do you have a conscience? Please council, prove to your constituents that you do indeed have one.

Thank you,
Laura Katz

4.11(000)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: This is a matter of life and death.

From: Hannah Uzelac

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:50 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: This is a matter of life and death.

***Please note that I want the below submission included IN FULL in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

My response to the Planning Committee delegations that took place with respect to the Encampment Enforcement discussions pushed forward by Councillor Jason Farr:

Julie Leif is correct that housing encampments should not exist. There should be enough housing available in the city of Hamilton for each and every one of us, not just those who are affluent enough to afford the things many of us take for granted: a fixed address, a credit score, an able body with which to earn enough money to contribute towards a place to live, a means of transportation, food, clothing, electricity, trinkets with which to decorate our bodies, and more. However, Hamilton has failed its less affluent citizens who do not have such privileges. There is nowhere for them to go. If by chance there is ever space at a shelter, I would challenge Julie to take that space and spend a week there. Houseless people deserve dignity no less than her or myself or anyone else in this world, and faced with the dismal situation within the shelters of this city, I highly doubt Julie could live there for a full week, let alone months or years. Encampments are formed out of desperation, because there is no other viable option -- not simply to "inconvenience" her or other housed residents of Hamilton.

Dakota Devenyi's delegation is incredibly privileged and arrogant. I would counter that every person on this planet deserves rights to life and security, not just her and others who are lucky enough to be housed in this city. The people living in encampments have already had their right to safety and security denied by the very broken system in which we live. Some of us are able to benefit from this system because of our privileges of having such things as an able body, a white-sounding name, light skin, generational wealth, speaking non-accented English, a loving family to provide a safety and security net, and many more, while those who do not have these privileges are left behind and forced to make do on their own. These people living in encampments are risking life and limb by sleeping outside on a nightly basis. I challenge Dakota to live within an encampment and assess encampment residents' level of security. What has Dakota ever done to assure the right to life and security of anyone ever living in an encampment?

Paul McDonald blames the smell of urine on those living in encampments. I would remind Paul that he has brought something much worse than an odor to the city of Hamilton, in the form of the violence perpetrated in and around Club 77:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/mom-anxious-to-see-park-at-club-seventy-seven-where-her-son-died-1.3755037>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-make-multiple-arrests-in-killing-of-club-77-bouncer-lofaro-1.3744019>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/headlines/john-rebecca-park-1.3625449>

It is events like these that make me feel unsafe within my city, rather than people living in encampments. Shootings and stabbings make me second guess whether I can go for a walk in my own neighborhood. I do not feel unsafe walking past an encampment. I challenge Paul to shut down his nightclub and convert it into residential space to provide affordable housing for the individuals who are not perpetrating violence in the area, and are simply trying to live. Or perhaps he can put some of his generational wealth towards the construction of a proper restroom near the encampment, since he clearly has taken for granted his unlimited 24/7 access to a working toilet. The fact that Hamilton residents would prefer a park over his nightclub tells me that I am not the only one who feels this way.

Bruce Speck: I challenge Bruce and all other owners of new and outrageously expensive condo buildings in Hamilton to pool their profit and create affordable housing in the city. They are directly contributing to the issue at hand. Countless Hamilton residents have been re-novicted because of greedy landlords looking to new shiny buildings such as Bruce's, believing that the living space that they have to offer is now worth far more than it actually is. There are people in this city who do not have the privileges I mentioned above, meaning they could never access the units in Bruce's building and others like it, and yet everyone on this earth has the right to dignified housing. Rather than complaining, he could actually put his money where his mouth is and do something to alleviate the situation.

Sincerely,

Hannah Uzelac

Ward 3 Resident

Settler on the land originally belonging to:
Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga (Haudenosaunee);
Anishinabewaki ᐱᐢᐸᐢᐸᐢᐸᐢᐸᐢ;
Attiwonderonk (Neutral);
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation;
and later re-named to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
<https://native-land.ca/>

4.11(PPP)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission of Written Delegation for Oct 27th Council Agenda

From: Taras Hemon
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:58 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Submission of Written Delegation for Oct 27th Council Agenda

Hello,

I would like to submit a written delegation that I want to be included on the October 27th Council Agenda.

As a Hamiltonian and Ward 2 resident, I express my anger and displeasure with the delegations presented on the October 19th Council meeting, in regards to discussions around Encampment Enforcement. I would especially like to voice my disappointment and anger with Councillor Farr's position and signal my support for unhoused and encampment residents. I am disgusted at the lack of empathy towards unhoused and encampment residents; this City should offer safe and accessible housing for all of its residents and focus on providing compassionate and actual solutions towards our vulnerable neighbours, instead of continually displacing them for the convenience and comfort of affluent residents and businesses. To continue, or to even consider continuing a policy of tearing down encampments, while admitting that there is not enough space in the shelter system, is unethical and violent. We have to consider the needs of the most vulnerable residents, and provide compassionate and empathetic care and support. I challenge you to be proper leaders in considering and creating actual solutions that benefit and help those who need it most. As a Ward 2 resident, I am angered and do not feel represented by Councillor Farr and demand he reconsider any and all support of displacing and causing further harm to unhoused people and encampment residents.

Thank you for accepting my written delegation.

Sincerely,

Taras Hemon

Pilon, Janet

4.11(999)

Subject: Delegation for Planning Committee

From: Jessica Hymers

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:04 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Delegation for Planning Committee

I am writing to voice my support for Hamilton's encampments and my neighbours that live there.

I am shocked by the rhetoric that I have heard from some of my fellow Hamiltonians who have submitted delegations to this committee. Many seem to have forgotten that the people who live in these encampments are our neighbours. They are people who deserve respect, care, safety, and dignity.

Criminalizing these encampments is not support and will certainly result in the death of our neighbours this winter.

I do not support criminalizing our city's unhoused citizens and would like to see the money that would be spent on this instead used to provide affordable housing, and housing transition support.

Please include this submission in the October 21 council agenda.

Thank you

Cheers

Jessica

4.11 (rrr)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Encampment Delegation

From: Andrea Pohlmann
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:06 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Hamilton Encampment Delegation

Good morning,

I'm writing today to weigh in on the Encampment Enforcement discussions, and specifically to submit a delegation to be included in the October 27th Council Agenda.

I've seen a lot of vitriol spewed about the encampments formed by our houseless neighbours, and it's upsetting to see. I think it's really important to remind everyone that not only are there *people* living in these encampments, but also that each of us housed people are much closer to living in similar conditions than we are to being millionaires.

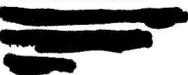
Encampments aren't the ideal solution to the houselessness problem absolutely gripping our city, but they are a solution - which is more than the municipal government has been able to offer despite this being a longstanding issue. Until we have a better solution that is actually acceptable and helpful, we absolutely cannot take away the only security encampment residents have.

The delegations that we've seen from Julie Leif, Dakota Devenyi, Paul McDonald, and Bruce Speck, among others, are demonstrating an immense amount of privilege and a severe lack of empathy. What they are saying in their delegations is that **their comfort is more important than other peoples' lives**. This is a completely unacceptable, and downright dangerous, approach to this issue.

My personal experience with houselessness is that I was once kicked out of the house I was renting and my belongings were held hostage by the landlord. I was very lucky: my personal support system and network helped me through my two weeks of houselessness. Despite being employed full-time and fairly successful generally speaking, I found myself in a situation with no real supports. I know the feeling of not knowing where you're going to sleep, I know the feeling of hopelessness that houselessness causes and how hard it is to find somewhere to live or some way to survive when it feels like everyone and everything has left you behind.

As we navigate a housing crisis, a pandemic, and the harsh conditions of a Canadian winter, we also have to consider humanity - our own, and that of the people living in encampments. While you consider the path forward I urge you to be empathetic and understanding that this is people's reality. These are the facts: these are our neighbours, they are people and they deserve respect - despite the discomfort it might make you feel.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Andrea Pohlmann
Ward 2 Resident



4.11(sss)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission Re: encampment enforcement

From: Rebecca Chin
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:11 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Submission Re: encampment enforcement

Please include my submission on the October 27th council agenda.

Dear Councillors,

My name is Rebecca Chin, and this year, I have had the distinct privilege to move to Hamilton, ward 3 where I have purchased my first home.

I live just north of Jack C Beemer park, where a small encamped community is set up. I see them there trying to live their lives. They keep to themselves, they don't approach me or make me feel unsafe in the park.

When I walk past them I think about what it would be to live like this, how hard it must be in the rain or the heat or snow. I think about how much harder or unsafe or painful other housing options must feel for them to choose living in a tent. Or I wonder what kind of housing is even inreach for people who find themselves here.

When I see that the tents have been cleared I worry about their health and safety. They come back slowly - so I know they haven't found a better solution. They've just been displaced - pushed along, their humanity weighed less than the **appearance** of city prosperity.

Councillors, let me be honest, as someone who paid a large margin over asking for their home, of course I'm also concerned about things like my property value. I would probably also find the park more pleasurable to use if the encampment wasn't there.

But let's all remember that these people are people.

Do they seem 'mentally disturbed' as one delegate described? Let's put our money and efforts into giving mental health support instead of sending law enforcement to further distress the house-less.

Does it smell like urine outside a night club? Let's ensure there are enough public access restrooms - I think this is the city's responsibility. I would also challenge whether this is the fault of the house-less community. I have seen many an undiscerning clubber in cities all over take relief on the street. Regardless - a public restroom would serve both.

As a constituent, my family and I demand that you and City Council stop removing people from parks with community funds. Hamilton Police and Municipal Law Enforcement continuously harass encampment residents and throw away their belongings. We, the constituents, will not tolerate this violent response to the ongoing housing crisis.

As winter approaches, please take a moment to consider what it must feel like to live like this and how much more difficult continual displacement makes it to survive. Please think about who will die this winter.

Please find a better solution.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Chin

4.11(++)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation for oct 27

From: Olivia Mancini
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:13 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; info@hesn.com
Subject: Delegation for oct 27

To the Mayor, city council, and emergency and community services committee:

Encampment residents have a history of complex homelessness and many have been identified as those with “high acuity” meaning they require low-barrier supportive housing options that are outside of traditional market rent housing interventions being provided.

The ideal housing option for encampment residents is low-barrier supportive housing models. Funders, policy makers, and the government need to prioritize and invest in this type of housing to end homelessness in our community. This type of housing intervention will help people who experience complex homelessness to maintain and be successful in their housing.

Inadequate policies and resources continue to contribute to the housing crisis and increase in encampments.

Emergency shelter can no longer be pushed on encampment residents when shelters are unable to meet their complex needs. Shelter staff are under paid, under funded and under resourced, resulting in a high turn over rate and staff burnout.

A main barrier to securing housing is due to income and poverty. Many encampment residents are on social assistance. Social assistance rates are dismally low, so people are unable to afford market rent housing in our community. For example, an Ontario Works recipient receives \$733/month in total. This demonstrates the financial hardships encampment residents are facing.

Most “complaints” from constituents is regarding urine and feces in public locations. This is not the responsibility of people deprived of housing. The onus is on you. You have chosen to keep public washrooms closed during a pandemic and you have refused to provide portable washrooms. People are going to the washroom on the street because there is nowhere else to go. You strive to appease affluent constituents, so providing washroom facilities would not only make your constituents happy, more importantly it would give unhoused folks a dignified space to practice proper hygiene and follow pandemic protocols

There 150 people in encampments at any given time. Shelters are full. Affordable permanent housing does not exist.

You are wasting time and money fighting in court to dismantle encampments when you are fully aware there is not enough indoor space for everyone and people have literally nowhere to go.

You could be using this time and energy to develop real solutions because if you don't people will die outside this winter and these deaths will be due to your ongoing negligence.

The housing manager admitted there is no space for people, so I'm not sure why you continue to say you have safer humane options for people when you actually don't, and for your lawyer to say the shelters are full "here and there" in court is quite unsettling. Your constituents deserve honesty about the issue of encampments, so please stop spreading false information to community members who are advocating for people deprived of housing. I have worked in the shelter system for 6 years and the shelters are always at capacity and this has only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

If ensuring the safety and well-being of ALL residents was indeed your top priority then you wouldn't be battling in court against people deprived of housing, doctors, lawyers, and other advocates. Your approach to encampments is inhumane.

I urge you to take a human rights-based approach to encampments. This approach is evidence-based and evidence-informed. I urge you to treat residents of encampments with dignity and respect, and meaningfully engage them in the decision-making process to relocate. It is time for you to listen to the experts and immediately stop dismantling encampments until you can provide real solutions - pathways into affordable permanent supportive housing.

I want my submission included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

Thank you,

Olivia Mancini
BA, BSW, MSW Candidate

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Written Submission re: Encampments

From: Taylor Chinn

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:16 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; info@hesn.ca

Subject: Written Submission re: Encampments

Good Morning,

I would like this submission to be included in the Oct. 27th council agenda.

"The houseless population (particularly those in encampments) are currently preparing for the looming reality that is Canadian winter. Several of our local business/property owners chose to speak out against encampments, expressing concern towards exposure to bio-hazardous materials (ie. human waste and exposed and used needles) as well as claiming fear of the individuals living in encampments.

The concerns regarding biohazards and safety are valid, however the solution is not to further criminalize the houseless population.

Several delegations expressed bitterness towards the 'lack of' policing in the encampments and one equated this as essentially allowing people to get away with murder. Being homeless and being a murderer are two very different things, and is a very complex social issue stemming from addictions, mental illness, and inequitable and unsupportive social structures that have enabled this.

For concerns regarding biohazard, the city should consider a harm-reduction and person-centred approach to encampments. By enforcing the policing we are not helping our unhoused neighbours, we are trying to help ourselves feel more comfortable. Instead of dismantling encampments we should ensure that the residents have access to appropriate resources and hygiene facilities. There are very few options for someone who is houseless to access hygiene facilities. I urge us to shift our focus from the frustration of repeatedly finding biohazardous materials, to understanding the lack of dignity we have continually forced upon people; often in shelters with little to no privacy and making decisions between using their last few dollars to buy a coffee to use the bathroom somewhere or buying medication for their health.

We know that homelessness stems from greater, more complex issues, like ableism, classism, racism, past experiences of Trauma, and more. We need more supportive programming and systems to support the houseless people who reside in encampments rather than criminalize them for finding a way to survive, in a system that otherwise does not have space for them. Shelters in Hamilton have been consistently over capacity for years, prior to the pandemic, and now in the pandemic due to limited spacing for social distancing there have been even less. Which has led to some people resorting to living in encampments.

People deserve dignity, respect, and safety regardless of whether we do or do not agree with their life choices or current way of living. If you push them out of encampments, where do you want them to go? There are currently no options, particularly for those with high needs, so we are criminalizing individuals who require support rather than offering them better alternatives. And we are doing this in an effort to keep ourselves more comfortable and have our businesses save money.

It is disgraceful that we would consider putting the value of property and comfort of customers over a human's life, well-being and dignity. We all need to think hard about our values and reflect on when we decided that our individual gain is worth more than a person's life. "

Thank you kindly,

4.11(vvv)

Pilon, Janet

From: Ben Robinson
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:22 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject:

Dear City Clerk,

I would like this submission included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

Best,
Ben Robinson

Dear City Council et al.,

I am a lifelong Hamilton resident, a parent of a young child who frequently makes use of our city parks, and I have been following the encampment hearings and the debate around encampments for some time now. I will keep this brief.

1. I reject the idea that the presence of unhoused people in our parks categorically makes parents and children feel unsafe. My child and I are at Gage Park nearly every day and I have never had an issue with anyone living in the park. If anything, the uncomfortable part is having to explain to my child why we live in a community where people do not have access to sufficient housing.
2. Despite the specific cases that were brought up in the hearings of individuals who have been offered spaces in shelters and have refused these spaces, the fact stands that there are simply not enough shelter beds in our city for everyone who is unhoused.
3. There has been much discussion about whether or not encampments are humane, particularly from people and councillors who do not and likely never have slept rough. Dictating what is and is not humane to our unhoused neighbours is patronizing at best. The more important question for us to be asking is why people are choosing not to access the shelter system? Clearly there is something wrong with our current system if so many people are opting not to access it.

I urge you to stop making life even more difficult for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Sincerely,
Ben Robinson
Ward 3 Resident

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Encampment Policy

From: Ani Chenier

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:23 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Hamilton Encampment Policy

Hello,

I am a resident of Ward 2, in Hamilton.

I am writing today in response to the Encampment Enforcement discussions that have taken place in the Planning Committee on October 19th. I hope to add my voice to those of others sharing their perspectives on the matter.

First, I want to express some concern about the role played by Jason Farr, my ward's councilor, in organizing this session and inviting select people to delegate. Although I have communicated with him directly about encampments in the past, and have made it clear that I was an interested citizen willing to learn more and share thoughts about the crisis, I was not informed of the opportunity to delegate on the 19th. Instead, it appears that Councilor Farr chose to preferentially contact and invite people who had expressed negative opinions about the encampments and their residents. The Hamiltonians who delegated on the 19th did so in good faith. Their experiences are valid, and deserve to be shared and heard. However, their experiences and opinions may not be representative of the experiences and opinions of all community residents!

Secondly, I want to express my thoughts about the encampment situation in Hamilton, and share my hopes for the City's future policy directions with regards to it. As a homeowner, I am fortunate and grateful to have access to secure housing. This is especially true now, at a time when the cost of housing has risen sharply, and when barriers to access have grown. It is now common for prospective renters to be asked to provide information, such as credit scores, that is both not directly relevant to their application, and apt to disqualify many from accessing housing. The cost of rental housing has become utterly decoupled from the actual incomes of Hamilton residents, in ways that are particularly dire for people living off of social assistant programs like ODSP and OW, or for the many people working in underpaid sectors. The horrifying reality is that many people are now *unable* to find any safe, decent housing, and that this problem will only get worse in coming years. We must deal with this crisis!

I am also fortunate and happy to live in a wonderful neighborhood, North End, in a great city. My house is situated a few blocks from what used to be the Jamesville Social Housing blocks, and a few blocks from a site that has been occupied by a multi-tent encampment since this summer. I walk on Strachan Avenue, between James and Bay, daily. This walk takes me directly between the encampment and the abandoned social housing. The contrast is jarring, and telling of our city's priorities. As a human being and a resident, let me tell you: the abandoned social housing is what scares and disturbs me! We have let housing sit empty while awaiting "redevelopment" that will put what was once public (City Housing owned) land into private developers' hands, to create many market rate and luxury units without sufficiently increasing the number of affordable units. We have let neighbors be displaced from their community. What a loss! We have not invested in building a diversity of housing options and supports. Any of us who falls ill or otherwise becomes unable to afford housing and other necessities of life faces what is essentially social abandonment. That is terrifying.

The encampment at Strahan North is not a comfortable place. Facilities (including bathrooms and garbages) are lacking. If people choose to live in tents, outside, in the hot and cold, year-round, it's because that is the best option currently available to them. That's telling, and again goes to show that we have a dearth of adequate, appropriate, human housing options to offer people.

Encampments are not good or humane long-term solutions, for anyone. But the only good way to get rid of encampments is to ensure that the people currently residing there *choose* to leave for other options *because those options are better for*

them. Encampment residents are the people best suited to defining what their needs are, and what solutions are acceptable, or not. They can and should be allowed to define what solutions are acceptable. If people feel safer in a tent than in a shelter, and are not offered any more enticing option, then they should at least be able to stay in a tent. If we can't, collectively, as a City, house people, then the minimum we must do is not prevent people from housing themselves!

Access to good housing is an absolute necessity for human health and wellbeing. I hope that we, as a City, will build more social housing, and invest in housing support programs, moving forward.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Ani Chénier

4.11(XXX)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission for October 27 Council Agenda

From: lee raback
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:33 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: info@hesn.ca
Subject: Submission for October 27 Council Agenda

To the Hamilton City Clerk,

I respectfully request the below submission be included in the October 27 Council agenda. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Lee Raback

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I was appalled by what I saw, watching the Planning Committee delegations speak about encampment enforcement on October 19. Appalled. I'm not sure if it was the glaring lack of diversity among the all-white, comfortably housed delegates, and the harmful, classist and ableist opinions they shared. Or if it was knowing that this obviously-slanted program of inhumane policy-making was being pushed by the same Councillors and City officials that created the housing crisis to begin with. But, in any case, I was appalled.

10 years ago Hamilton was one of the most affordable places to live in Canada. Today it is one of the least affordable places to live on the planet. Our Councillors and City officials have spent the last decade courting speculation and hyper-development, while inflaming and ignoring the monstrous and historic housing affordability issue they were creating. And here we are. 100s of our neighbours on the street. And hundreds more, bracing for evictions. No housing to offer. No solutions. No services. No plan to see them safely through the winter. Just some high-paid lawyers arguing for encampment evictions, and more money for Police.

My name is Lee Raback (or Lee Reed). I have lived in the downtown for over 30 years. As a local musician and organizer, I can say I know 100's of Hamiltonians. And not a single one of them would agree with the delegates you hosted on October 19. Not one thing said that day would reflect the opinions, feelings or positions of the Hamiltonians I know.

Winter is coming. We need solutions, not harassment. You can talk all you want about your legal obligations, or lack thereof. But, morally? You owe it to our unhoused neighbours; and you owe it to the thousands of working class Hamiltonians struggling with their housing. Why? Because your policies and decisions created this misery. For everyone across the city struggling to make ends meet, while you incentivize their rent increases and displacement.. to the hundreds that are already unhoused, and bracing for winter on the streets .. this is your mess. You owe this city and its people some solutions.

Stop ducking your responsibility. Do better.

Thank you for your time,

Lee Raback

Ward 2 Resident

4.11 (yyy)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Response to City of Hamilton Planning Committee delegations on October 19th

From: sonali m

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:43 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Response to City of Hamilton Planning Committee delegations on October 19th

Hi clerk,

Please include my submission in the October 27th Council agenda.

It is heartbreaking to read callous delegation statements by Hamilton residents and business owners advocating for the removal and criminalization of encampments in Hamilton. Criminalizing poverty does not solve poverty. The city of hamilton has failed encampment residents. Disappearing encampments does not solve the housing and houslessness crisis. Every time I see or interact with encampment residents either near my workplace or near my home, my belief that housing is a human right is strengthened. Safe, affordable and accessible housing is a human right that is being denied to encampment residents. Evicting, harassing, brutalizing and throwing out encampment residents belongings does absolutely nothing to provide safety or secure housing for encampment residents. For many encampment residents, the shelter system is not a safe or viable option. We know that shelters are rife with COVID, impose strict and often dehumanizing rules on residents, and again, criminalize or ban those who use drugs or are deemed disruptive due to mental health. Encampment residents don't sleep in tents because it's fun, they have absolutely no other choice. Evicting or banning encampments brings residents farther away from safety and security, not closer.

Many of the Hamiltonians who have delegated are affluent, wealthy and white. They are interested in protecting their private property and business interests and they are not invested in the well being of the unhoused. Unhoused people are our neighbours. They deserve to be treated with the same dignity and respect that officials treat business owners and homeowners. Criminalizing poverty, criminalizing mental illness and criminalizing disability does absolutely nothing to address the barriers to housing that encampment residents are facing. Housing is a human right that must be afforded to all.

in solidarity,

Sonali Menezes, Hamilton Corktown resident, arts worker

4.11 (zzz)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: A written delegation for October 27th Council Agenda – Encampment residents

From: Justin Aitcheson

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:45 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: A written delegation for October 27th Council Agenda – Encampment residents

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

This is for inclusion in the October 27th Council Agenda as a written delegation.

It has come to my attention that there were some serious comments against houseless folks at the October 19th Planning Committee meeting. I'd like you to think about those for a moment. Many people were expressing their displeasure about encampments and about smells and garbage and needles. Perhaps these are all issues, but if we take a small moment to zoom out and do a very crucial thing, we look at everyone – those living houseless in encampments and those complaining about those people – as people. No one person's life is more important than the other person's life. If we take a moment to pause on that one idea it should be plain as day how evil motions to further displace, monitor, stigmatize and destabilize the group that is most vulnerable.

For those complaining, they've had enough of walking into their luxury condos and smelling a foul smell. They've had enough waiting for furniture, they've had enough ice cream, and food, and rest, and binge watching Netflix. They've had enough full nights rest without the worry that they'll wake up and they'll have been robbed. They've had enough time to think how much they just don't like that encampments are there that they want to delegate about it. For them, maybe it's back to business as usual as we hopefully get over the crest of a global pandemic and they expect everyone to just continue on just like they've had to do in their rough lives.

For those in encampments, they haven't had enough of much at all. Food, sleep, water, bathrooms, security, let alone all the luxuries mentioned above on the side of those complaining. People in encampments have endured people lighting their tents on fire, being woken up by having fireworks shot at their tents, being talked to like people that just shouldn't exist, having to move 24 times in a year, having their stuff thrown in garbage trucks with or without being present to rescue priceless and sentimental items. People in encampments can't just go away, they can't just hide under a rock, they can't just be somewhere they can't be seen. That would please those people that are complaining I'm sure but it doesn't zero to help their real struggles. Houseless people aren't in the position to just be okay, to just go back in hiding in a shelter. They've had a harder year than all of the rest of us, so why now would we choose to kick them when they're down.

I feel like I can illustrate this with an analogy. Think of a tug of war game. There's a big pool of water in the middle. On one side, they are about to fall into the water, or maybe their feet are in the water already. They're just trying to pull hard enough to get out of the water. On the other side, they are far away from the water, they have tons of space but they are absolutely terrified that their feet might get wet. They are acting as though their feet are already in the water too so they keep pulling as hard as they can. The encampment residents are clearly already in the water.

If we're collecting all the data about incidents at encampments, I'd like to propose we compile some more. I'd like to see the full cost of city workers removing encampments, how many people have been displaced, how the mental health of those in encampments have been effected by having their belongings thrown in the garbage and having nothing again. I'd love to see the environmental impact of how many fully working tents have been destroyed.

I urge you to look deep inside and see if your heart still beats or if it's cold and still. I urge you to see that trying rid the city of houseless folks in whatever way possible is evil. I urge you to spend every dollar and every thought that you have of moving, or making things harder for houseless people to be put towards making a positive difference in their lives. So far, I've only heard about ultimatums and 10 day stays in places where they have to leave behind people or pets or things they can't do without. What good does a 10 day stay do for a pandemic that's 2 years long? Please tell me.

If you don't evil in making things more difficult for this group of people or drag them further into the water – especially as winter is approaching – then I have no faith in you to have council over this city. You only seek money, success, and to be higher than the last person you stepped on the back of. I'm terribly disappointed at how encampment relations have been dealt with here and I hope there is more heart and remorse as winter comes so we don't lose more people.

Hoping you make choices that look out for all people, not just the wealthy,

Justin Aitcheson

4.11 (aaaa)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Response to Oct 19 Meeting

From: Miles Oreskovic

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:47 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>

Subject: Response to Oct 19 Meeting

Hi there. I'd like the following to be included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.

After listening to the delegates who spoke on October 19th, I'm concerned people may not understand what they're advocating for. Many delegates stated they believe encampment residents need support, however most made it clear they wish to see the City clear encampments.

On September 22nd of this year, CBC News reported that the City confirmed it had interacted with more than 477 encampment residents between January 2020 and July 2021. Of those, only 73 were housed even though most of the 477 had accessed shelters at some time. If accurate, this information shows us that the City's current approach is not sufficient and seldomly leads to housing. It seems to me that with the City's involvement, encampment residents either accept shelter and later likely wind up back on the street without the little shelter and security afforded by a tent, or they refuse shelter and remain on the street without the little shelter and security afforded by a tent after an encampment is cleared.

Won't encampment residents be at a greater disadvantage and likely be in greater distress without a tent? Won't greater distress make petty theft and public drug use more likely? Constantly moving the houseless along only makes houselessness disappear if these people die in the street. It feels to me like you're ultimately either advocating for permanent housing and supports or increased difficulty and harm likely leading to death as winter approaches.

Do long line ups outside the Hub not indicate the need for needle exchanges, food, and related supports? Perhaps we need more of them. If we don't have needle exchanges will we not see more needles in the street? If these supports are not offered at the Hub, the people frequenting this neighborhood will simply move elsewhere in the city, not solving the issues or meeting the needs of these people but allowing the housed residents of that neighborhood the luxury of not witnessing addiction and houselessness. The safety and comfort of all community members is important, but the people seeking these supports lack regular and secure access to food, housing, and safe consumption resources.

When people advocate for by-law enforcement in this context and it results in encampment residents remaining unhoused, are they not simply asking for these "unsavoury and dangerous individuals" to become someone else's problem? Is this a solution? It does not sound to me like the Hub is the source of the issues described. It sounds like hunger and houselessness may often be the source of petty theft and addiction.

Being houseless is more painful than we likely appreciate and if I were in a similar situation I can't say I wouldn't turn to drugs. I can say I'd steal to eat.

Thank you for your time.

-Miles, Hamilton resident

4.11(bbbb)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation for October 27th Council Meeting

From: Eshan Merali
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:51 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Delegation for October 27th Council Meeting

Hello,

The following is a submission to be included in the October 27th Council Meeting on encampment enforcement discussions.

My name is Eshan Merali, I am a proud Hamilton resident living in Ward 3. For the past few months, I have been witnessing the growing number of encampments throughout Hamilton and have grown concerned for its residents. I see their constant displacement of having to relocate from one park to the next due to the lack of supports and available affordable housing. I see the criminalization of poverty where our own community members are not given the respect to live their own lives. I see them in constant danger of being harassed by city and police workers, and sometimes their own neighbours. With Winter fast approaching, actions need to be taken that are not rooted in criminalizing and displacing encampment residents but in providing them with access to support and housing. We cannot prioritize the needs of private properties over the needs of our own community members. I call for an **end to encampment evictions** and for council and community members to start listening to our houseless community members and respect their autonomy.

Best,
Eshan

4.11(cccc)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Encampments; please include my submission in the Oct 27 Council agenda

From: Marnie Saskin

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:51 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Re: Hamilton Encampments; please include my submission in the Oct 27 Council agenda

Dear Hamilton City Council,

As a white, able-bodied, property-owning resident of Hamilton - all those privileged markers which some councillors seem to treat as more important than others - I would like to show my support for my unhoused neighbours.

I have been lucky enough in my life to never have been told "you can't live here". My husband, and some of my housed neighbours who have been survivors of war or genocide, unfortunately have not been as fortunate. But their pain is not more worthy of support than those of our neighbours currently living in parks.

I fully support allocating resources from the city budget to support those who live in encampments.

A forward thinking city which supports all its citizens would already have winterized public washrooms and potable water in the majority of its parks (see City of Toronto). In that respect Hamilton is a bit of an embarrassment already. All of us who enjoy Hamilton's outdoor beauty need access to washrooms and drinking water, something which any family with small children can tell you is hard to find here.

Evictions of encampment residents is a stain on our civic duty.

Would it not be more engaging, more respectful, and show better urban planning and good governance to invest in flexible outdoor spaces which meet more of our needs as Hamiltonians, inclusive of encampment residents? (And also increase mid-size urban density housing with walkable access to city amenities? And access to mental health support? And safe injection sites? But that's another letter.. or two, I suppose.)

Please do not criminalise people's homes.

Respectfully,

Marnie Saskin

4.11 (dddd)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Submission for the Council agenda on October 27th

From: Sydney Szijarto

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:01 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@hesn.ca

Subject: Submission for the Council agenda on October 27th

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like this statement to be included in the October 27th Council agenda with respect to encampment enforcement.

Prioritizing the property values of housed individuals over the rights of unhoused individuals to use public spaces is appalling. Recognizing the lack of proper infrastructure (supports for unhoused people which pays attention to their freedoms, security, and dignity), it is thoughtless and harmful to force unhoused people toward them and disregard their valid concerns. The delegates who spoke on behalf of encampment evictions focused on their own, secondary needs above the primary needs of their neighbours. These delegates will not be facing a winter without a house and are in no position to make decisions for those who will be. Unhoused individuals rarely have access to delegation proceedings which affect their wellbeing, leading to their opinions and interests being put aside in favour of those who oppose them (and are in the economic and social position to do so).

Thank you for your time,
Sydney

4.11 (eeee)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: Support for Encampment Residents

From: Emily Kulpaka
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:59 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Support for Encampment Residents

Hello Clerk, and councillors,

It is my understanding that there is a meeting on October 27th regarding encampments yet again, and that it's important that the community provides their input regarding unhoused neighbours. Please ensure this is included

I have the extreme privilege of being both a property owner, and a business owner. I have space in two wards, and have worked to get to know the community in both.

In both spaces, I have had my fair share of frustration and joy with housed neighbours, and unhoused neighbours alike, as it goes with humans!

However, I have had many more opportunities to get to know our our unhoused neighbours, who swing by for snacks or drinks, and in return, assist me with gardening, tidying, or just conversation.

Sure we have had instances where mental illness has caused an escalation, but as a housed individual, with access to technology, I can learn about different strategies, and work to create a safer space for both sides.

Sure we've had difficulties with harm reduction paraphernalia, but Hamilton provides needle disposal bins and naloxone, and it took some zip ties and duct tape, and we have a great system where People who use drugs and dispose of their supplies, and it means one more trip to shoppers drug mart for me. No big deal.

Sure we've had instances of graffiti or property damage, but there's no evidence that this is coming at any higher rates from unhoused individuals than our housed neighbours, and our neighbours from both situations have always helped us deal with it.

The reality is, we do not have enough housing, and housing for folks with mental illness and who are drug users is consistently isolating at best, and dangerous in most cases. Encampments are not the solution, we all know that, but they are much safer than shelters, lodging homes, or city housing (a few weeks ago I spend a solid amount of time cleaning, and disinfecting rat bites on a woman living in city housing for example)

I'm asking you to stop wasting time and resources debating the validity of encampments, and start doing education and harm reduction actions.

Spend time teaching community members how to be better, more inclusive, community members. Run seminars on ways to assist folks in mental health crises. Teach basic first aid for free. Run seminars on conscious and unconcious bias. Demystify drug use by discussing the different uses in town, and the procedure if someone does get jabbed by a needle or finds a pipe.

Educate community members about their role, and their strength to assist others while staying safe themselves. And then let our unhoused neighbours stay in their encampments, where they have support systems, until proper, safe, bug/pest free housing can be provided.

Stop thinking that this is an "us vs them" situation, and start looking at ways we can all be community together, and we will all head towards a safer winter, where we can put our energy and resources to things other than constantly replacing the hundreds of dollars of donations city crews keep dumpstering when encampments are moved/torn down.

Sincerely,
Emily Kulpaka

4.11(ffff)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampments - Oct 27th Council agenda.

From: Matthew Higginson

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:00 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>; Natalie; Michelle Tom; Nancy Hurst; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Encampments - Oct 27th Council agenda.

Hi there,

I am writing because I would like this letter **included in the Oct 27th Council agenda.**

I am a constituent of Ward 3, a community member, and a father. I'm writing to you as our neighbours, our elected representatives, and for some of you, as fellow parents. You will be voting in the coming days on a matter that has implications on our neighbours, our fellow constituents - however marginalized - someone else's children.

This is not a form letter, though if it was, it should have no less weight when coming from someone who elected you to office.

Last winter, I joined a coalition of amazingly compassionate folks who were organizing to ensure folks who have been marginalized have access to warm clothes, food, water - basic necessities and human rights. People died last winter, and more will die this winter. Criminalizing encampments is far from material support.

Mayor, as I pointed out in my last correspondence, you said that "the pandemic has underscored the increasing need for access to safe, humane, and affordable housing." I pointed out that removing homes that people currently live in before we can deliver on the promise of future housing is very troubling - and I would still very much appreciate a reply explaining how you are able to rectify these two positions.

As pointed out by the Hamilton Encampment Support Network, we have somewhere around 11,350 homes vacant across the city. The thousands of signs up for the Stop Sprawl campaign highlight a broad consensus that there are many more vacant lots that could be transformed into middle density housing, connecting the issues of our climate emergency with the current housing crisis.

As noted by the Hamilton Encampment Support Network (HESN), "[e]ncampment evictions have been and continue to be dehumanizing, insidious displays of violence in a sustained municipal war on Black, Indigenous, racialized, disabled, poor, and unhoused communities, both in so-called Hamilton as well as across Turtle Island."

I am asking you to recognize these along with the previous Planning Committee delegations that took place with respect to Encampment Enforcement discussions. We have to recognize that housing is a human right and strive to provide it for all - not chase folks out of sight. We have the funds if you are able to show the courage to lead and not give in to craven politics, or the loud voices of those with the most privilege among us. These are not the lessons I want to teach my children.

We can and must do better.

We must listen to the people who will be directly affected - listen to the voices of the people this policy seeks to remove.

Where will they go?

Do they feel safe?

Is this a humane approach?

And what is affordable, actually?

"We used to fight homelessness, when did we start fighting the houseless?"

Thank you

--

Matthew James William Higginson

4.11(9999)

October 22, 2021

To Hamilton City Council,

I am writing this letter to express concern over testimonials presented at the Planning Committee delegations on October 19th, regarding the evictions of encampment residents, and brought forward by Councilor Jason Farr. The testimonials presented were extremely one-sided, presenting the views of property-owning residents and leaving out the voices of the unhoused. What purpose could such a biased discussion have, other than to push the narrative that the city needs to evict encampment residents? The city claims that it is doing everything in its power to move people into shelters, but our unhoused neighbours have repeatedly provided us with a list of reasons why the shelter system is inadequate to meet their needs. This list contains items like 'I feel unsafe', 'I don't want to lose my stuff', and 'I don't want to abandon my pet'. These all seem pretty reasonable to me. Furthermore, I know that advocacy groups such as the Hamilton Encampment Support Network have brought these concerns to city council repeatedly. I myself have written several letters! When Councillor Farr disregards these concerns and instead repeats the lie that shelters represent a 'safer alternative to encampments', what are we supposed to think? It seems to me that there are two possibilities: either councillor Farr believes that he knows what's best for our unhoused neighbours better than they do, or he wants to sweep these concerns under the rug in order to appease his more affluent constituents. In either case, I am writing as a resident of ward 2 to indicate that this is not acceptable to me. Housed Hamiltonians who are distressed at the sight of encampments should all demand that the city find real alternatives. These alternatives must be those that unhoused people choose for themselves over encampments. The city must stop forcibly removing people who have nowhere else to go. Wasting time and effort bringing a group of property-owning, white residents in to dehumanize our neighbours, and mislead us about what is being done to help them, is not a solution. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Dawson

4.11(hhhh)

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I'm a resident of Ward 3 and a stay-at-home mom. I spend every day in my neighbourhood walking my child to school, visiting the library with my toddler, and playing in local parks. Seeing more and more structures in those parks upset me, but it wasn't because I was worried about safety or noise or about the park being an unfit place for my children to play. I could plainly see how much people were suffering and how dire the housing crisis was becoming and was keenly aware of how people like me - middle class folks who've moved here from other cities - are participating in the gentrification that is displacing so many.

Listening to the delegates on October 19th, most of whom appeared to be white and well off, revealed how much Council continues to allow whiteness, wealth, and classism to take a front seat. There was more concern about new patio furniture than people being treated with the care and support they need - support we would need if we ever found ourselves houseless. If we stop fooling ourselves, we might see that many of us could be in the same position. I suffer from chronic depression and have had seasons of not being able to generate income or practice self-care due to my mental health. The thing that's kept me housed and relatively well is the privilege of having financial support and care provided by my family and partner. It's not my own determination, it's not that I pulled myself up by my bootstraps, it's not that I made particularly good decisions. It's that I was white, passed as straight, was well-resourced, and had connections to well-resourced people who could hold me through those times, help me with rent, set me up with the therapy I needed, and assist me in navigating the healthcare system.

I'll end by saying that Hamilton is a place where we hope to stay, not because of the restaurants on James North or the pristine new parks, but because of the people, some of whom are houseless, some of whom have been priced out of the neighbourhood. I ask you, Council, to please use your imaginations and hearts when considering the future of this city and allow that to influence the policies you put in place. This city could be a place that puts belonging and wellness in the front seat, a place where the survival of all is prioritized over the comfort of a few.

Sincerely,

Joanna Aitcheson (she/her)
Ward 3 Resident

4.11 (jjjj)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Encampment

From: Lisa Bedell
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Municipal Law Enforcement <mle@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Encampment

I am writing with concern of the bylaw violation of an encampment set up once again in Jack C Beemer Park on the corner of Victoria and King William.

I am a resident of the area and do not particularly have a problem with the encampment being placed in its current location rather the behaviour that occurs and the safety concerns that exist because of this encampment. I feel that others would likely share this opinion if it weren't for similar concerns.

My family, consisting of 7 children, resides around the corner from this location and can no longer feel safe utilizing, what should be, a child-oriented space at the playground. I work in mental health and corrections with a full understanding of the challenges and barriers presented daily in finding suitable housing for these individuals. However, my empathy has come to a halt as a result of the behaviours witnessed, by myself and my children. We have on multiple occasions walked home from the playground to use the washroom instead of making use of park facilities. Every time we have entered these washrooms there is someone locked in the changing stall injecting themselves with drugs or someone standing in the washroom under the influence. We have left the park on multiple other occasions due to individuals from the encampment under the influence yelling at us, poles, trees, or one another. We have witnessed multiple police encounters at the park as a result of verbal altercations. I make my children keep their shoes on in the splash pad for fear of them stepping on a needle or other dangerous items.

There are often warming stations throughout cold winter nights for these individuals when temperatures reach a certain low make this sustainable, utilize church basements, community centers, empty schools, security personnel, volunteers, soup vans to provide the basic needs to get people out of parks and to a temporary situation until further plans can be in place.

I pay high rent prices in a double income house hold to live around the corner from a park that is unusable and unsafe while my vehicle gets broken in to on a regular basis and my back window frame now bent with the screen torn from someone trying to break into my home to access the belongings that I work extremely hard for. This is simply not okay and we need a higher police presence on side roads and through alleyways. Police are often seen on Wilson Street or Cannon but never the roads in between to make the community feel safer. I feel for these people who are struggling daily, I really do but my children deserve to feel safe in their home and deserve to play at a safe park.

Lisa Bedell

4.11 (KKKK)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: End Encampment Evictions

From: Daya Williams
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Re: End Encampment Evictions

Hi Paulena,

While I can appreciate that the city is offering temporary supports and services to some of the unhoused folks in Hamilton, using police enforcement to destroy what little possessions people have in order to force folks into two-day stays at the Sandman or the overflowing shelters is more dehumanizing than sleeping in a park. Right now, as a full-time employed person, it is impossible for me to find an affordable home in this city. What **permanent and sustainable** supports are being provided for those who have less, in this stage of Hamilton's opioid crisis, and housing crisis, and climate crisis, and fourth-wave of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Please advise,
Daya

On Tue, Oct 19, 2021 at 1:25 PM Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Daya,

Thank you for your email and expressing your views on this important matter.

The City of Hamilton is committed to meeting the needs of unsheltered and unhoused residents through continuity of service while supporting long-term housing stability for vulnerable residents. Parks need to remain a safe place where all residents can enjoy and access outdoor spaces and amenities. We have safer, more human options than sleeping rough and we remain committed to offering supports and alternatives to those living in encampments.

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all residents remains a top priority for Hamilton City Council and Staff. The City of Hamilton remains committed to taking an individualized approach to housing by connecting those experiencing homelessness with available community resources and support programs.

Your feedback to the safety and wellbeing of our community does not go unnoticed and has been shared with Office Staff for awareness.

Kind regards,

Paulena Yousif

Constituency Assistant
Office of the Mayor
City of Hamilton
(905) 546-4200

From: Daya Williams
Sent: October 7, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger,

I am a concerned citizen, residing at [REDACTED]

My name is Daya, and I live in Hamilton. I am emailing you to stop the dismantling of encampments at JC Beemer Park, Beasley Park, the Clairmont Access Park, Durand Park and other parks across the city while there continue to be no options for permanent housing. As the weather gets colder, people are trying to prepare themselves for the cold season, and it is impossible to do that if they continue to be displaced. The funds the City of Hamilton has used to remove my unhoused neighbours and their belongings through violent policing and policy are better used to provide people permanent housing.

As a constituent, my family and I demand that you and City Council stop removing people from parks with community funds. Hamilton Police and Municipal Law Enforcement continuously harass encampment residents and throw away their belongings. We, the constituents, will not tolerate this violent response to the ongoing housing crisis.

We demand an end to these evictions until you can provide people with permanent free housing.

Sincerely,
Daya Williams

4.11 (1111)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Affordable housing

From: Steve Jackson
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:40 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: FW: Affordable housing

Thank you for your reply to my concerns. It's frustrating to see this drag on so long and that's what upsets me as I see record numbers in tents all over the city. It only takes one night for someone to die in minus temperatures while these places sit idle for years we have to get past the red tape and act now to get people housed

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Office of the Mayor" <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
To: "Steve Jackson"
Cc:
Sent: Fri., 15 Oct. 2021 at 3:23 p.m.
Subject: RE: [Resident email] FW: Affordable housing

Good afternoon Steve,

Further to our correspondence, I have received the following update from the City's Planning division regarding the housing complex in question:

The Planning Division is processing an Official Plan Amendment application and Zoning By-law Amendment application to permit a 450 unit residential development consisting of 14 three to four storey multiple dwellings (stacked townhouses) and two seven storey multiple dwellings. A minimum 284 parking spaces are proposed, including 29 visitor parking spaces for the lands located at 405 James Street North. A public notice was sent to property owners within 120 metres (see attached) on August 3, 2021. The applications are still under review and will require a staff report to be presented to Planning Committee for a decision on the proposed development.

Mark Kehler is the lead planner on the file and is available should the constituent have any additional questions. Mark is available at 905-546-2424 ext. 4148 or by email at Mark.Kehler@hamilton.ca.

In respect to the encampments identified, I can confirm I have forwarded your correspondence to the City's outreach program who engage with individuals experiencing homelessness.

In trusting that this information is helpful, we appreciate your correspondence surrounding this important matter.

Kind regards,

Paulena Yousif
Constituency Assistant
Office of the Mayor
City of Hamilton
(905) 546-4200



From: Steve Jackson
Sent: October 7, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: RE: Affordable housing

I can't find the complex address but the housing complex I am referring to is an entire city block James St North, Strachan st west, McNab st north and Ferrie st west. That whole entire townhome complex with was my understanding Hamilton housing geared to income. It's been sitting a long time with nothing done. All boarded up. As for people living in tents they're spread all over the city. An old man lives under the underpass at upper Wentworth and the Link. People loving in tents at Carter Park off Young St
And people in tents at Bay st N and Strachan st west on the corner.

On Thu., 7 Oct. 2021 at 11:48 a.m., Office of the Mayor

<Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca> wrote:

Good morning Steve,

Thank you for emailing the Office of Mayor Eisenberger concerning encampments and affordable housing.

The City of Hamilton is committed to meeting the needs of unsheltered and unhoused residents through continuity of service while supporting long-term housing stability for vulnerable residents. Parks need to remain a safe place where all residents can enjoy and access outdoor spaces and amenities. We have safer, more human options than sleeping rough and we remain committed to offering supports and alternatives to those living in encampments.

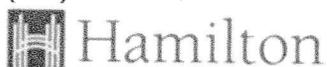
To assist further with your correspondence, is there a specific location of tent encampments that you are referring to? Additionally, if you provide an address for the boarded up townhomes on James St N our Building division will be able to establish any submission of permit applications.

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all residents remains a top priority for Hamilton City Council and Staff. The City of Hamilton remains committed to taking an individualized approach to housing by connecting those experiencing homelessness with available community resources and support programs.

Kind regards,

Paulena Yousif

Constituency Assistant
Office of the Mayor
City of Hamilton
(905) 546-4200



From: Steve Jackson
Sent: October 4, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Spadafora, Gemma <Gemma.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Affordable housing

We have people living in tents all over the city and a 10+ year wait list for housing. We have dozens of townhouses in James St north sitting abandoned and boarded up
Why??? This is a crisis and it makes me angry seeing nothing being done. All of you are so fortunate to have homes yet the poor are suffering

4.11 (mmmm)

Pilon, Janet

Homeless in public spaces

Subject:

From: Michelle Wood
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Homeless in public spaces

Good Afternoon

I am writing this as a frustrated and disappointed hamilton resident.
The mayor of hamilton a few months back stated on the news encampments would be removed from public parks and the one at woodlands park on Barton St has not been it looks like a garbage dump over there !
There is furniture sitting out in the rain garbage everywhere again it is frustrating being a home owner here . There are constantly police over there for issues and there even was a fire over there 2 weeks ago one of the tent burned up.
This is not fair to us tax payers. Why did the mayor say they would be removed and nothing has been done!
I also see a huge garbage mess on York blvd travelling east in between Pearl St and Ray St that nothing has ever been done with either i have called about it twice and the garbage is still there .
This makes the city look like a garbage dump . I did notice a tent at Dundurn Castle that was there weeks ago but that person has been moved along so why not all parks?
We have been dealing with the encampment at Woodlands Park for 8 months now when do we as tax paying citizens get a break and not have to deal with the issues that come along with the encampments.

Thank you

4.11(nnnn)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: CITY ..

From: Don Vautour
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:25 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: CITY ..

Mr.Mayor - Your Honourable

We have had discussions on better topics over the years such as business and everyday living. But in recent weeks I'm finding Hamilton really starting to look and feel like a third world country (City) - Homeless people everywhere - spreading garbage all over the parks and streets, standing on street corners with signs panhandling. Seriously Fred, it's getting out of control. - I own and operate a chain of retail stores that continuously are getting pissed on - needles all over the grounds. I have community members including kids 7 - 8 & 11 with their family picking up needles so they can walk the dog !!!

Who really cares about LRT at this Point - Walk the streets or ask the local Police departments what's going on but it's gotta come to an end - I had Three (3) close friends move from Hamilton in the last 2 weeks because of this situation and I'm also thinking of leaving this City after 60 Years.

What kind of business or future corporations want to move in this environment?

Sorry to give you the information, But enough is enough - Im reading the same complaints on many sites - with reference of sending emails to the City of Hamilton - (Council Meeting)

PLEASE find a law - and enforce it to the limit !!

4.11 (0000)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: **UPDATE: URGENT: Rebecca John Park

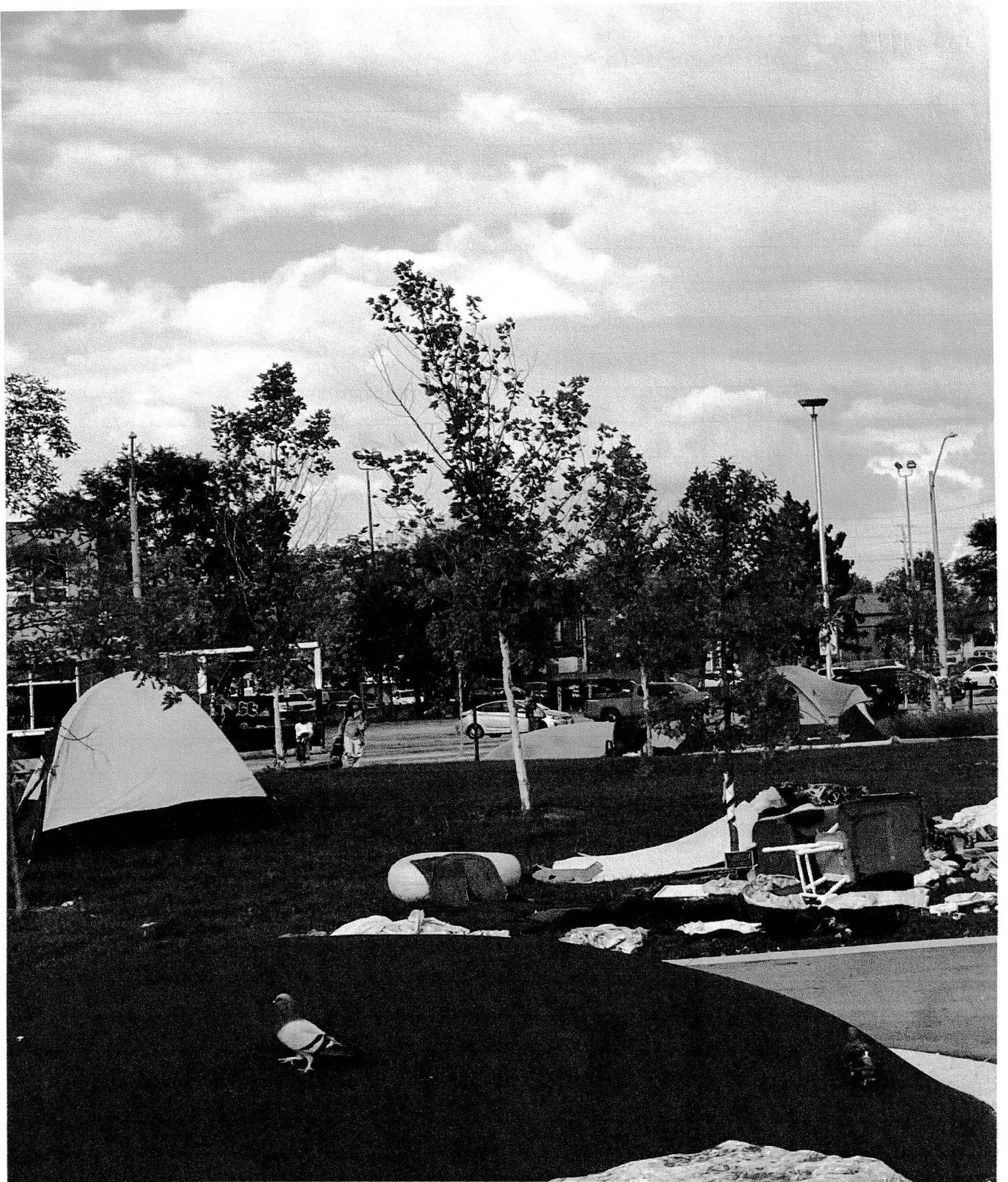
From: Paul Vicari

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:32 PM

To: City Information <info@hamilton.ca>; Office of the City Manager <CityManager@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Public Health Services <publichealth@hamilton.ca>; Hamilton@cbc.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Subject: **UPDATE: URGENT: Rebecca John Park

See attached image. Action is required ASAP or we're contacting the police daily.





On Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 7:15 PM Paul V > wrote:

+ Hamilton Police

On Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 7:01 PM Paul V > wrote:

Plaeae do something about this immediately! Our neighborhood can't handle this anymore.







