

**Bates, Tamara**

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**Subject:** FW: Emergency meeting**From:** Gina Henry < >**Sent:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 12:01 PM**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)**Subject:** Emergency meeting

I would like to delegate to tomorrow's

## **EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE Meeting**

A few years ago, my son was working full time as a senior accounts manager having worked his way up from a minimum wage position. Then the company went bankrupt and he lost his job. He was already fighting addiction (successfully) and a diagnosed psychiatric disorder. The firing triggered psychiatric problems. He managed to support himself for a few years, but eventually could not longer cope and started living on the streets where he has been on and off for the past 4 years.

In the past 4 weeks my son has been violently attacked twice. The first time resulted in 2 collapsed lungs, a chest tube and a 3 week hospital stay. He was beaten because he was unhoused and mentally ill. This past Saturday on the 3rd day after his discharge from hospital he and his fiancé were attacked by a man wielding a baseball bat. When the police arrived, the man took off and the officers were nice enough to bring them to my home because as one officer told me on the phone "they are not safe staying here." He and his partner were concerned that the man would return. My son's fiancé suffered a blow to the head resulting in nausea and a severe headache. They have filled out all the paperwork, followed up with their housing officer every few days, repeatedly called to try to find a spot in the hotel program - in other words they have done everything right. If I could I would put them up, but I live in my sister's house and it is not possible.

The longer the city refuses to make changes in their willingness to look for immediate solutions, the larger this problem will become and more people are going to die on the streets THIS winter.

Regina Henry  
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