

From: Eshan Merali <
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:16 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Hamilton Encampment Support Network <info@hesn.ca>
Subject: Letter for GIC December 8th,2021

I would like to request the following letter to be included in the General Issues Committee meeting this Wednesday, December 8th regarding the hate mitigation report

Hello Councillors,

My name is Eshan Merali and I am a Ward 3 resident that has been following the city's response to the housing crisis.

I am getting increasingly frustrated with the city's lack of action and continuous criminalization of poverty and care work. The actions that were taken by police at JC Beemer against community members, who provide more care for our houseless neighbours than the city, is shameful. It is clear that this violence is from a lack of hate mitigation, especially when we see police officers fashioned with a thin blue line, associated with hateful ideologies.

I am calling on you to drop the charges and additional conditions against those arrested and to stop all further encampment teardowns. I am also calling on you all to reflect on the consequences of your lack of action. It is incredibly easy to ignore the situation from the comfort of your homes but many community members have been on the ground doing care work. We have seen people die, lose limbs, and suffer incredible losses, and we know this will continue through winter. This blood is on the city's hands.

The city is more than capable of addressing this crisis by providing free, permanent housing, but continues to prioritize profits over the needs of people. The hatred and criminalization of poverty cannot be tolerated any longer.

I truly hope you are able to consider and understand the hurt you are causing to our city and communities.

Sincerely,
Eshan Merali
Ward 3