

Members of the Council,

I am writing today as a citizen who is deeply concerned with the city's failure to live up to the principles and recommendations of its very own Hate Prevention, Mitigation and Community Initiatives Action Plan.

Reading this plan, a beautiful picture of Hamilton is painted. One that is "safe, respectful, and inclusive for all residents." One that is "welcoming and inclusive, where equity-seeking communities feel safe, supported and have an enhanced sense of belonging through strengthened community capacity, City responsiveness, and inclusive engagement opportunities." One that "strives to be a safe and supportive city for people regardless of their race, age, background, religion, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity."

Considering the decision of city council to resume violent encampment evictions, and actions of the HPS towards peaceful observers at J.C. Beemer park, this could not be farther from reality. Not only do the recent arrests linked to actions at J.C. Beemer park punish those doing the real work of hate mitigation in the city's absence, it also reveals the racial bias of the HPS who clearly targeted Black youth in the arrests made. If you wish to follow your own recommendations to any degree, it is imperative to put an immediate end to encampment evictions, and to drop all charges to those arrested for supporting the people who live there.

Sincerely,

Katherine Walker-Jones