

From: Hollie Pocsai <
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 8:37 PM
Subject: Letter Submission for General Issues Meeting -

Good morning,

My name is Hollie Pocsai, I am a resident of Ward 2, and a member of the Hamilton Encampment Support Network. I am once again calling upon you today to stop the violent dismantling of encampments in all parks and public spaces across Hamilton while there continue to be no options for permanent housing. I am also calling on you to condemn the excessive use of force and power directed by Hamilton Police Services on the young Black activists and organizers defending the dignity, human rights, and safety of our unhoused neighbours. The charges laid against six individuals stemming from events on November 24th at JC Beemer Park and on November 26th at Hamilton Police Central Station should immediately be dropped, and an inquiry should be opened into the actions of the HPS. It is deeply troubling that City Council remains silent on actions so deplorable.

Hamilton is in the midst of a housing crisis, an opioid crisis, a climate crisis, and a worldwide pandemic. None of these dilemmas will be solved by violent policing and violent policies. We need new solutions, and people in this city are dying while you refuse to act. While you find solace in the idea that this is how it's always been done, I see careless apathetic destruction. By doing nothing you are complicit in unnecessary trauma and death.

I strongly believe that the excess of funding allocated to the HPS budget removes supports and resources which would ultimately contribute to the safety and well-being of my community. How can you truly believe that 35+ police officers were needed at JC Beemer on November 24th in the interest of "public safety"? How can you watch as HPS brutalizes Black advocates and volunteers with no regard for *their* safety, and justify HPS actions as reasonable? Where do you think our unhoused community members go once you throw all their personal belongings in the trash?

What kind of morally bankrupt people do you have to be to allow all of this?

Hollie Pocsai