

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Stop the Red Hill encampment eviction

From: Sarah Van Berkel

Sent: December 9, 2021 10:34 AM

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

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; Matthew Green - Hamilton Centre NDP <matthew.green@ndp.ca>; ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca

Subject: Stop the Red Hill encampment eviction

Councillor Merulla,

I am writing to you as a resident of your ward to speak out against the unjust and violent encampment evictions happening throughout the city. Particularly, please put an end to the proposed plan to evict residents living in our ward in the Red Hill Valley encampment. It is beyond infuriating seeing our city allocate its limited resources on policing the most vulnerable members of our society instead of working towards meaningful solutions to our housing crisis.

What is City Housing Hamilton doing? Close to a hundred townhomes have been shuttered at Jamesville in the North End, to be replaced (When??) with half as many smaller units. Same thing at Roxborough Park. How is creating LESS inferior units for families a solution to this escalating crisis? When will all these new units actually be built? Where did you expect the people living in these affordable housing units to go when the city tore down their homes?

In the decade it takes to get these projects going and the current rate of the housing shortage, one can assume the demand is going to be exponentially greater by the time someone can actually live in these new units. The land that City Housing Hamilton owns is a very valuable asset. This land is only going to be more valuable in the future. Selling land to developers in order to purchase new apartment units is short-sighted and a disservice to future generations. Keep the land in public ownership and leverage the funding available from higher orders of government to redevelop the sites in a way that prioritises people over the profits of developers.

Regards,
Sarah Van Berkel