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From: Jeanette Eby

Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:00 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Powers, Russ <Russ.Powers@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; judy.partridge@hamilton.ca; clerk@hamilton.ca; Paul Sousa <beasleychair@gmail.com>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: BNA Statement of Support re: Encampment evictions and arrests

Dear Councillor Farr, Mayor Fred Eisenberger, and City Councillors:

The attached letter is a statement from the BNA (Beasley Neighbourhood Association) in response to the arrests and encampment evictions on November 24th and 26th. We support the calls made by local Black leaders and other community organizations to drop the charges of the youth housing advocates, inquire into the actions of the police, and end encampment evictions. As a community we can address this housing crisis in a way that is compassionate and responsive to the needs of those who are most affected.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Jeanette Eby

Ward 2 resident, BNA Executive member



Beasley Neighbourhood Association

December 8, 2021

Jason Farr
Councillor, Ward 2
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Councillor Farr:

The BNA supports the statements of local Black leaders, organizations and community members, made last week in response to the violent arrests of six youth housing advocates and the ongoing encampment evictions in our neighbourhood and across the city. We condemn this violence and affirm the work of the Hamilton Encampment Support Network who are providing care and support to encampment residents, filling in the gaps that should be filled by our government.

We call for the following:

For the Hamilton Police Services and the Prosecutor's office to drop the charges laid against all six youth housing advocates.

For the Hamilton Police Services Board and/or the Attorney General to open a judicial inquiry into the actions of the police at JC Beemer Park on November 24th and Hamilton Police Central Station on November 26th.

For Hamilton City Council to stop encampment evictions and the criminalizing of encampment residents and those who support them.

As a neighbourhood association in Ward 2, we value all of our residents and we call on the City to act urgently to prioritize safe and supportive housing options. We recognize that Black, Indigenous and poor residents continue to be harmed by the current actions of the City and police. Resources must be invested in housing and support, with a spectrum of options that respond to the needs of our houseless community members. Our City can and must do better, and we call on our elected officials to respond and listen to those who are most affected. Current encampment enforcement only serves to hurt our most marginalized community members, to further criminalize poverty, and to silence the voices that are standing up for justice.

As neighbours, we know that we can and must do better, and we will continue to work towards building a neighbourhood where everyone is valued and has what they need to live well.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Eby
On behalf of the BNA Executive

Copy:

Mayor:
Fred Eisenberger
Councillors:
Maureen Wilson, Ward 1
Nrinder Nann, Ward 3
Sam Merulla, Ward 4
Russ Powers, Ward 5
Tom Jackson, Ward 6
Esther Pauls, Ward 7
John Paul Danko, Ward 8
Brad Clark, Ward 9
Maria Pearson, Ward 10
Brenda Johnson, Ward 11
Lloyd Ferguson, Ward 12
Arlene Vanderbeek, Ward 13
Terry Whitehead, Ward 14
Judy Partridge, Ward 15