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From: Ryan McGreal <editor@raisethehammer.org>

Sent: August 7, 2020 11:26 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@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>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written Statement on Commonwealth Games Bid

Dear Council,

There has never been a more urgent time to think, decide and act strategically when it comes to Hamilton's priorities.

More than ever before, we need:

- Stable, secure, supported housing for people living in homelessness;
- Expanded social and mental health services for vulnerable members of our community;
- Transformative public investment in rapid transit, local transit and inclusive transportation infrastructure to improve accessibility and reduce automobile reliance;
- A new approach to civic infrastructure to build resilience against increasing extreme weather events caused by global warming; and
- A new compact with Black, Indigenous, racialized and queer-identified communities that acknowledges pervasive, ongoing systemic discrimination in social services, policing, economic opportunity and community empowerment.

These urgent needs are cast into even sharper relief by the novel coronavirus pandemic, a global health crisis that has shone a bright, unforgiving light on our longstanding collective failure to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Commonwealth Games would be a nice-to-have event if we were meeting our urgent, essential functions as a municipality. But we're not meeting them. We're

nowhere close to meeting them, and any money we allocate into the Games bid will do nothing to move us closer to meeting them.

Seeking the Commonwealth Games bid now, while the city is in the grip of a generational crisis, is akin to fiddling while Rome burns. It would be both morally repugnant and fiscally reckless.

Please say NO to the Commonwealth Games bid and focus your attention on the urgent housing, transportation, climate and equity and inclusion priorities that demand meaningful action.

Sincerely,

Ryan McGreal