

Pilon, Janet

Subject: New Roadside Memorial bylaw policy for reading on February 9th council agenda

From: JENNIFER MANN

Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 2:13 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>

Subject: New Roadside Memorial bylaw policy for reading on February 9th council agenda

The Mayor and Members of Council.

To the city council, my name is Jennifer Mann and I am the grieving mother of a violently killed daughter. My beautiful Mackenzie was killed on June 3, 2020, by a criminally negligent stunt driver. Her soul was taken at the corner of Nebo and Airport Rd. I have been made aware that a committee was formed to create a bylaw for the city of Hamilton. Who was on this committee to come up with these restrictions on roadside memorials? Was the opportunity given to invite the many parents of the existing roadside memorials that are already in place. I didn't get an invitation. Consulting us would've been a good way to come up with reasonable criteria to put into your new bylaw. I was assured by the city consultant I'm dealing with, with respect to my daughter's memorial, on Airport and Nebo that her memorial has been grandfathered and will not be subjected to this new bylaw. I would like that in writing where I can refer to it for reference in the future, you will have to appreciate my lack of trust in this city.

There are a few items I would like the committee/council to reconsider with regards to this new bylaw.

First, and probably the most significant and important is the time frame of 18 months! How was that small time frame agreed upon. Did you speak to psychologists, grief counsellors like I mentioned in my previous emails to Fred Eisenberger, Brenda Johnson, and Craig Murdoch. Have you consulted grieving parents, they are the people devastated by these awful traumatic deaths? Let me be clear- **there is no time frame on grieving, trauma and loss**. And for you to suggest that 18 months, not even 2 full years is enough to honour their lost child or loved one is astonishing and wrong. Further, if all these new memorials adhere to the restrictions and meet the parameters why have a removal date at all? What's the point? I would ask that the time frame be removed from the bylaw as long as the new restrictions are being met. Roadside memorials are a significant part of the grieving process and are very helpful in honouring their loved one. Most loved ones are taken quickly and violently and their memory deserves to be honoured, so they are not forgotten. One of the biggest worries of grieving parents is that their child will be forgotten. Memorials help to keep their memory alive. Why take that from people that have had the most horrible thing happen to a human being.

Second, the size of 1 meter, all around. I think the size of the memorial should be reflective as to where the death occurs. A death on a very busy street with high traffic volume or is considered dangerous to approach like the Linc or the Red Hill is different than a death on a rural country road or neighbourhood street. Major arteries are completely different than rural side roads or neighbourhood streets. I recommend a 1 meter all way around as the minimum and then address on a case by case basis to a maximum length/height. Also if your argument is to deter roadside memorials or limit them, that is unfair and if you are worried about too many of them around the city then maybe resources should be put into place and address the reasons for all these unnecessary deaths and penalties associated with the killings. Almost all roadside memorials involved dangerous, stunt driving, and impairment by alcohol or drugs.

Third, the idea of no solar lights is also something to eliminate. Please do not use solar lights as a distraction to passerby's and drivers. That has got to be the most ridiculous reason to date. There are so many other major light distractions in this city to pick at other than a roadside memorials. If someone wants to call the city to complain about lights at a roadside memorial causing distraction to them, then maybe the city should turn the argument back on the complainer. Learn how to drive with things going on around you. It's part of getting your license. There are giant light up billboards all over this city on very busy roads including the Linc. Billboards require reading and usually have a message that causes way more distraction than some solar powered lights at a roadside memorial. There is an enormous plane that looks like its crashing into the ground at an

already dangerous curve where many deaths have occurred already on HWY 6 in Mount Hope. So really that restriction needs to go. The lights represent calm and solace and are a significant sign in relation to death and healing. Please remove this restriction. I understand the glass and the candles, that makes perfect sense and solar lights are also environmentally friendly. Maybe just add the restriction of no blinking or flashing lights.

I hate the fact that I have to sit here and write an email begging for reconsideration on roadside memorials. I would give anything in this world to have my daughter back. But here I am, and these are my 3 biggest concerns moving forward for grieving parents who will walk in my shoes. Unfortunately, there will be more of us out there and please city council I am literally begging you to take some time to reconsider these 3 areas and concerns. I'm more than willing to meet and help come up with some other restrictions.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Mann