

From: Megan Janssen

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 7:36 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written Delegation Submission: Planning Committee March 22

Hello all,

Thank you for reading my delegation today. I appreciate your time and attention.

I write you to demand that motion item 11.3 not be passed. I ask that instead, council invest in accessible and permanent housing solutions for all unhoused community members. In order to do this I ask that we instead reallocate all resources being put toward encampment evictions (financial, and otherwise) towards housing infrastructure and programs, as well as transitional supports for those newly housed.

I am deeply disturbed by Hamilton's use of violence and force against the most vulnerable in our community. In a moment of extraordinary challenges for many people in Hamilton's borders, the city has chosen violence over compassion, and made it known that if my circumstances find me homeless, that I am unwanted. I am a criminal - viewed as less than human. I should disappear, cease to exist. The city tells us that if we should find ourselves without housing, that we are criminal, that we are less deserving of dignity, compassion and support.

It all sounds quite dramatic, but this is how we are treating the unhoused members of our community. I am a third generation Hamiltonian, and I understand that I am way more likely to become homeless than I am to become a millionaire. If I was experiencing homelessness, trying to survive with the little I had, the LAST thing I would need would be for my city to continue to violently remove me from what little I have. Instead, I would hope that my community would actively work to combat this crisis, and to become a place where people can live dignified lives.

Instead of spending our resources on violence, only doing further harm to these human beings and community members - please, let us address the real issues at hand: solve the affordable housing waitlist, pay people living wages, work with advocates and people experiencing homelessness to create positive and pragmatic solutions. Improve shelter conditions, create more affordable housing units, stop renovictions, create new rent control, rezone to create better housing options - these are all things we can do to stop the crisis.

In a time of global chaos, of war and destruction, may we not respond to our own vulnerable communities with violence and destruction. As a human being, a community member and Hamiltonian, I feel it is my duty to stand up and demand better for my community.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

All best,

Megan McBride