

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Support for amending bylaw to allow drinking in parks

**From:** Martin Zarate

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:31 AM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 8 Office <[ward8@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward8@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 1 Office <[ward1@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward1@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** Support for amending bylaw to allow drinking in parks

Councillor Wilson, Councillor Danko, Mr Mayor,

I'm writing to voice my support for opening up Hamilton city parks to drinking, and to thank councillor Danko for opening this subject up for study. I think we should be collectively ashamed that we didn't properly move on this in 2020 when COVID shutdown orders effectively declared that anybody who didn't have access to a private yard was effectively banned from socializing over drinks.

Ontario's puritanical attitude towards drinking only seems normal to people who don't travel enough to see other places where enjoying a drink out in public is normal and fine. It's time to begin relaxing these rules and allowing responsible consumption. The Quebec approach (with a meal, daytime-only) seems perfectly reasonable, for example.

And to those who worry about garbage: picnics also cause garbage. Sports events cause garbage. \*Use\* causes garbage. Too many people see the city's parks as extensions of their private gardens, meant only to be observed. Parks were meant to be enjoyed, and this program would offer a new way to do so.

Thanks for your time,

Martin Zarate

Ward 1 resident