

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Re-development of downtown core & shelter inclusion

From: Joshua Weresch

Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 10:24 AM

To: Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Re-development of downtown core & shelter inclusion

Dear John-Paul and Andrea Holland, City Clerk,

Hope this finds you well. I would ask that this letter be placed on the council's public agenda.

I wanted to write to you regarding the revivification of the downtown core and the inclusion of shelters in it. I hope our mutual vision of a good city is one where those most in need are cared for in shelters as a way forward to free, public, accessible housing; if they're not in shelters, then the expansion of public facilities and wrap-around services for unhoused peoples in tents must be the case, as the Encampment Support Network has attested. A recent article in the Hamilton Spectator ("Major redevelopment is in the works for downtown Hamilton. Do shelters fit in?" [\[https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2022/02/24/downtown-hamilton-development-york-boulevard-entertainment-precinct.html\]](https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2022/02/24/downtown-hamilton-development-york-boulevard-entertainment-precinct.html)) noted the possibility that the Salvation Army shelter may not be present if this major re-development and reviving of the downtown core by a private entertainment group occurs.

I would submit that the core is not worth reviving if this is the price that is to be paid. A city is not revived by exiling those most in need, by ensuring that there is no place for them to be warm, cared for, and given what they need as people, as human people, to flourish and to grow on their own terms, not mine, and not capitalism's. At day's end, people need to be seen and cared for and respected as people, not as trash, not as something from which one averts one's eyes, nor as someone in front of whom the car window is not rolled down at all. That level of indifference, the indifference that is indicated by the plans of this entertainment group, is killing people.

Do not allow this group to re-develop the core if the shelter is excised from the core, if they have no equity lens to place the needs of those most in need first of all. To remain human is to remain able to care, both for one's self and for another. Please show that you and council do care for those most in need and not just for the city's revenue stream.

Regards,

Joshua Weresch

Ward 8