

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Proposed Tiny Home Community on Strachan Street in Hamilton

From: ALEX TECU

Sent: August 13, 2023 7:12 PM

To: Teviah Moro <tmoro@thespec.com>; Ward 2 <ward2@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Unsheltered <unsheltered@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Stephenson, Michelle <Michelle.Stephenson@hamilton.ca>; bennetto@hwdsb.on.ca; info@hwdsb.on.ca; sdahab@hwdsb.on.ca; khussey@hwdsb.on.ca

Subject: Proposed Tiny Home Community on Strachan Street in Hamilton

Sunday August 13, 2023

RE: Proposed Tiny Home Community on Strachan Street in Hamilton

To Whom it May Concern,

I grew up in the North End, and I attended the former Bennetto school, as well as the current Bennetto School (previously Centennial Elementary School).

I am heartbroken to hear that a tiny home community is being built about 100m away from a kindergarten playground.

I am not opposed to helping homeless people who are in need of support. I am opposed to doing so by providing shelter in a location that may affect children in a negative way. The north end neighborhood is in need and the people are struggling. Bennetto is a high priority school and an area of focus due to low student achievement, high needs and based on census data. From the school yard, children will be able to visually see what takes place at the tiny home community. We need to help break the cycle for these kids so that they do not accept this as the norm. It is not equitable for these kids, as they deserve the ability to be sheltered from these influences during the school hours. We need to protect these children and elevate them to change their story. Schools are supposed to be a safe haven. This is the only public school in the neighborhood, and many kids are bused to Bennetto each day.

I am aware that there are sometimes tents around Bay Street at Strachan, and while I do not think it's the best location, those tents are still seasonal and are mostly not present during the school year. The tiny home community will be more permanent and year-round.

Why did the city close the survey on Strachan and James, displacing hundreds of low-income families to then pay to have some people live across the street? Also, why did we relocate the mission's services on James Street, removing additional support for the potential tiny home occupants. I'm not sure that this tiny home community will attract commuters to the West Harbour go station, and I'm surprised that CN rail welcomes this community so close to their property lines.

I would like to add that the tiny home community in Kitchener is located off the highway in an industrial area (49 Ardelt Ave), nowhere near homes or schools. Can we not find a more suitable non-residential location?

I do not have any children that currently attend Bennetto school, and I am writing to you today because it's the right thing to do. Please consider a different location for this tiny home community. This location decision should be a North End community decision, and I think that you would be hard pressed to find support for this location, within the community.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns,
Nicole Tecu