

Pilon, Janet

Subject: City council meeting September 27, 2023. PW23062: Management of the Aviary at 85 Oak Knoll Drive (Ward 1)

From: Alison Forde

Sent: September 26, 2023 9:43 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; info@hamiltonaviary.ca

Subject: City council meeting September 27, 2023. PW23062: Management of the Aviary at 85 Oak Knoll Drive (Ward 1)

Hello,

I am writing in support of maintaining funding and a home in Hamilton for the Hamilton Aviary. As a parrot owner myself, I know how important it is for these birds to have a sense of safety, security, and continuity in their care, particularly if they have experienced trauma in their past. All of these rescued birds receive the best care at the Hamilton Aviary and it would be cruel to force them away from the people they trust. I understand finding a new home is necessary - surely this is not an impossible task, particularly with the generous support they have been receiving from the community.

Secondary to the birds' care is the phenomenal educational resource the Aviary provides to the community and visitors. Many people are aware of the fun side of parrots but not the care and attention they require throughout their very long lifespans. The Aviary is a credit to parrots around the world and contributes to animal welfare and conservation by educating about these species. Volunteers who may be considering having a parrot as a companion have the rewarding experience of working with rescues and deciding whether that type of responsibility is right for them - and on the flip side, those who might not be able to afford a parrot can still have the opportunity to be around them.

The Hamilton Aviary is a unique resource and attraction in the City that should be celebrated, not dismantled.

Thank you for your time,

Alison Forde