

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Public Works Committee Meeting September 18,2023

From: Lisa Johnston

Sent: September 17, 2023 10:26 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Agenda item #PW23062, Management of the Aviary at 85 Oak Knoll Drive,Ward 1.

Dear public works department, city council,

My name is Lisa Johnston and I have been a dedicated volunteer of the Hamilton aviary for 8 years. During my time with the aviary, I've developed a strong bond with a few of the birds in our care. In particular, Baby and Sydney, who are dearly missed by myself and the other volunteers who knew them. I have a very strong bond with Tia, who is a 23 year old citron coloured cockatoo.

Before Tia got regular attention from his humans at the aviary, he plucked his feathers because he longed for attention. In the years since, he has thrived. Countless numbers of people have come through our doors and fallen in love with our birds. Children have sung to them, read to them and have been entertained by them.

These birds thrive on attention from the public and from us, their carers who have known them the longest. These birds have feelings and familiarity with those who have cared for them for the last 20 years. We have bonded with them and they with us. I am so afraid these birds will regress if they are put into another place with people they do not know.

I am strongly urging you to please allow these birds to stay together, with the familiar people that they know and love, who know them best. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lisa Johnston
Friday Crew Lead