

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Encampment council meeting feedback

**From:** Ted Pudney

**Sent:** May 18, 2023 4:23 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

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Hello, as a resident of Ward 2 I would like to give my feedback on the process for consideration to allow for legal encampments.

Living near John Rebecca Park I have witnessed first hand the result of encampments and the ripple effect had on the surrounding community. The situation in JR Park brought violence, crime, drug dealers, assaults, enormous property damage and vandalism. Notwithstanding, serious public safety concerns that by any measure were out of control. All of which were a result of encampments.

I believe our councillor's heart is in the right place but I am 100% against his agenda to allow for this. Knowing from experience what the inevitable outcome will be.

Consider that our current policies are- at the very least keeping a measure of control and the situation manageable. Should this be allowed, it opens the doors to something far more dangerous to spin out of control and far less manageable.

As there are already case studies and benchmarks that can easily be found in Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and LA where compassion as our Ward 2 councillor is suggesting has not only failed but fuelled an already volatile deadly situation. And we must learn from these examples and mistakes to not repeat them by assisting to victimize our own city by our own hand.

Thus I implore the city to look for solutions but urge council to not loosen public policy that ultimately will have dire consequences.

Hard no to encampments.

Sincerely,

Ted