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From: jane weary

Sent: August 11, 2023 8:57 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Tiny homes on Strachan st E meeting letter

As an owner of property on Strachan St East near Hughson, I am extremely concerned with the city Proposal on Encampment Protocol affecting my residence and community.

I have read the Protocol and see a number of areas of significant conflict.

To begin with, the Strachan strip is far too small to ever accommodate the 20 tiny homes contemplated.

Secondly, the City currently sponsors events which rely on that specific space for tax paying resident families and friends to gather to park and/or congregate to watch the Labour Day Parade, the Santa Claus Parade and the Street Crawl - all of which attract families and children who will NO longer participate if unhomed, marginalized and itinerant peoples are living there.

Thirdly, there are NO water/toilet/shower facilities anywhere near this area so that much cost will be incurred by the City to accommodate the intended homes in a healthy venue which ensures local residents health and welfare is not compromised.

Fourthly, within one block of this proposed location there is a community centre, a community garden, a daycare and an elementary school! Young vulnerable children use the new public paths and sidewalk daily to attend school and care facilities. These children will be exposed to situations they are too young to filter; their parents will avoid the area leading to less vibrancy and public use.

Fifthly, the north end has recently been revitalized with the specific purpose of welcoming young families and many of our new neighbours have come from other urban centres to enjoy healthy community living with a view to growing their families. An encampment requiring 'guarded' sanitary facilities is the exact opposite of this and the neighbourhood will quickly lose its current revitalisation as a consequence.

Sixly(?), the City has only recently seen the new Go station become more viable with greater service. It has been established at significant city and tax payer cost to attract more public use of the area much beautified over recent years in this central area close to the Bay Front and more recently the huge development project currently in place at the Harbour Front. Turning the Strachan Strip from a commercial/residential zone attracting people, commuters, business and homeowners into a municipal encampment of policed tiny homes defeats all the hard work and money invested to date.

In fact, it is glaringly obvious that the Strachan strip as a site for this intended use is ridiculous on countless fronts!!!

There are far better locations which do NOT threaten the peace and safety and sanitation of resident homeowners - for the 'temporary' accommodation of the unfortunate individuals concerned.

Far more appropriate would be the lands on Stewart and Barton streets where numerous properties and residents were expropriated and evicted only a few years ago for the aborted stadium plan! Given the existence of such infrastructures then, there must be sewage and water hookup available at a fraction of the cost that creating such for the Strachan strip would require. Moreover, the area is within walking distance of any and all downtown desires. It is large and - best of all - is nowhere near children's parks or schools or daycares or family homes and will not therefore negatively impact existing community needs and activities.

The current King West dog park is another preferred area as it does not impact any family neighbourhood nor any resident's peace, security and property values. It is close to a large retail mall with shops and Ontario services. It has a city run building in the centre with water supplies already available. It is a large green area, much more in keeping with people's living needs than the small concrete, cramped Strachan Strip.

Another potential area is the empty lot at the corner of Longwood and Main. This is close to a number of retail facilities. It is just as large as the Strachan strip. It was a gas station so must have water and sewage mains. There are NO community events or gatherings which take place in the vicinity. It does NOT impact family or immediate residential living. It is close to a High School, but not to daycare and elementary vulnerable children.

Of course we need an answer to the-needs of the unhomed. Throwing 20 tiny homes up ensuring all remain cramped in one sordid shantytown is NOT the answer.

Far better to have 10 or 15 in each of these LARGER sites mentioned (Stuart street, king west, Westdale - making for a total of 45 tiny homes at least) which would have the additional benefit of reducing crime and crowding and instead foster safety and diversity. All without risking upheaval and distress to a newly thriving residential area of our city.

In the event the Strachan site were to move ahead, myself and fellow residents would expect the City to compensate us for the significant drop in our home values such initiative would cause us. Further, our potential rental income would, of course, be drastically compromised and some monetary recompense from the City would be expected.

I understand there is to be a public discussion of this issue on August 14. Kindly advise as to how I can participate through virtual technology (zoom/teams) in advance of the meeting

Thank you. I look forward to your considered response.

Jane Weary