

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Appalling response of Hamilton city Council to HATS (Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters)

From: Rita Bailey

Sent: January 30, 2023 2:56 PM

To: Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>; Ward 2 <ward2@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 12 Office <ward12@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Appalling response of Hamilton city Council to HATS (Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters)

Dear Councillors,

I am shocked, deeply concerned and ashamed of the recent response of city councillors to HATS. The Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters is a volunteer group with expertise in the issues regarding homelessness. Every time they come to council with a proposal they get shot down, criticized and presented with a number of obstacles. The end result is another delay. I don't know whether this is a case of nimbyism on your part or whether you just don't care about people who don't vote or pay taxes.

Expecting a small group of volunteers to survey the residents in the neighbourhoods surrounding their proposed sites is ridiculous. This is a non-profit group without the resources to do such surveys. That is the job of the city. Put some time and city money into this, remove the obstacles and get it done! It's appalling that this has gone on for over a year with no action on your part.

In the summer of 2020, a small group of volunteers in Kitchener Ontario decided to build what they called A Better Tent City. The tiny homes were up and operating by the fall of that year. They had the support of many groups in Kitchener, including the city council.

It's time the city councilors started looking for solutions rather than presenting obstacles. A basic premise of social justice is that every human being deserves to live a life with dignity. It's hard to do that when you are living on the street or in a crowded and sometimes dangerous shelter.

There is no excuse not to have Tiny Shelters operating in Hamilton this winter. Please collaborate on this important issue. Remember that we are judged by the way we treat those least among us. Right now Hamilton Council is failing on this critical indicator.

Sincerely,
Rita Bailey
Ward 1