

From: KK Z

Sent: February 29, 2024 3:08 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@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>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Stoney Creek Parking Lot: A Moral Dilemma

Dear Council:

This surely has turned into a divisive issue that is not good for the City of Hamilton.

So much talk about inclusiveness, diversity and equity and these parking spots highlights the moral dilemma. The question whether affordable housing is more appropriate than car parking is irrelevant. This is a question of right versus wrong.

In order to understand this you must be capable of putting yourself in other peoples' shoes. That is a sign of true leadership and I thank Councillor Francis and the 7 others for having the wisdom to understand this. I am hoping, particularly Madam Mayor, you will truly listen to these citizens and business owners and ensure you don't isolate this group without deep reflection. Facts:

1. The business community and the citizens in this area of Stoney Creek are vehemently opposed to an affordable housing project in downtown Stoney Creek. Their reasons are irrelevant. This is not about car vs people, NIMBY or any other slogans that are so hastily thrown about, and again irrelevant. The fact is, they are not opposed to affordable housing in other areas of Stoney Creek.
2. These parking lots were paid for by the citizens and business community of Stoney Creek and did not belong to Hamilton until amalgamation on January 1st 2001. Do you think that perhaps these folks have a sense of community? That needs to be cherished, not dismissed.
3. Forcing this project on them will create more division and resentment. You can't build any sense of community when a group is told "we don't care" what you think or believe. Suggest the bollards and razor wire be erected around City Hall sooner than later if you keep going down this road.
4. If you do decide to do the "right" thing be prepared for lots of name calling, media trolling, pushback from Ford/Trudeau, and more advocates/tents set up in front of City Hall. If you are afraid of any of these fears, then IMO and respectfully, you are the wrong people in a position of authority. And remember something; the housing, poverty, affordability problems did not happen over night and they won't be fixed over night either.

In closely, I fully don't expect much change among the younger Councillors and those that are old enough to know better. Respectfully, I know you are well intentioned and want to "fix things"....but

perhaps slow down and take a view from higher up. And remember: "You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar". Godspeed.

Regards,

Kim Zivanovich Ward 12

Janet: Please attach to the appropriate Council Agenda. Thank you