



June 14, 2024

To: Members of General Issues Committee
Re: Wellington Park Encampment

Dear Members of the General Issues Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of Dodsworth & Brown Funeral Home – Robinson Chapel, located at 15 West Ave. N., Hamilton, ON L8L 5B9, which has been owned and operated by Arbor Memorial since 1981. As the Chief Operating Officer for Arbor Memorial, I'm writing today to share some of the significant impacts on our business and our staff associated with the encampment in Wellington Park. I want to be clear that we understand the complexities of homelessness and the need for compassion and support for those experiencing it. In parallel, it is our responsibility to address the health, safety, and well-being of our staff and the families we serve during their times of grief.

Arbor Memorial's primary concern is ensuring that the families we serve are provided with the dignity, respect, and privacy they deserve as they bid farewell to their loved ones. Many of the families we serve are in the midst of mourning, and our goal is to ensure that their experience at our funeral home does not add to their emotional burden. This means that our facilities must be clean and properly maintained, and that the environment is as calm and orderly as possible. Activities and conditions stemming from the encampment are currently resulting in significant cleanliness and maintenance challenges on our property for our staff, contributing to a more distressing environment for the families we serve and for our staff.

We recognize the challenges inherent in addressing homelessness and the need for comprehensive solutions that balance compassion with practicality. Arbor Memorial is committed to our community, and we believe there are further opportunities in the short-term to enhance our community's well-being.

We respectfully urge City Council to uphold its commitment outlined in its Encampment Protocol and provide additional health and safety, maintenance, and response measures to encampments. By implementing measures to ensure the safety and dignity of all residents, we can create a more compassionate and supportive community for everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David Carnovale
Chief Operating Officer, Arbor Memorial
dcarnovale@arbormemorial.com