

From: Lauren MacKenzie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: June 14, 2024 8:32 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: North end nuisances

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Dear Clerk,

I'd like to share with you my experience of living in the North End since the encampment protocol has taken effect.

We used to live at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. As more and more tents popped up in the area more, more unhoused people would make their way into our building for shelter.

Residents were too scared to use the front entrance because of the unpredictable state of these unhoused people. More often than not, these people were heavily intoxicated and quick to yell at or physically block residents.

Being buzzed in by naïve residents was also a common occurrence, which led to unsheltered people sleeping under the stairwells, on the rooftop balcony, and a lot of theft.

My husband and I had our bikes stolen from the bike room, neighbours had their storage locker broken into, and our building's recycling bins were often missing. There were people snooping around the premises daily. Bi-law and non-emergency like was called frequently, and not much was done.

I thought moving into a house would have ensured a little more safety but I don't think that's the case anymore (we're on [REDACTED])! You see, I have 2 young children (3 and 7 months), and my husband works away from home from time to time (Toronto Fire). Knowing that the people living in the tents are stealing from neighbours at night, and even breaking and entering, is very unnerving.

I've attempted to walk through Bayfront park with my 7 month old and it's a filthy mess. Increased amounts of garbage, including drug paraphernalia and stolen goods litter the once beautiful and attractive green space near Hutch's. There is a noticeable increase in birds and their excrement. And on warm windy days you can smell human urine in the air.

The public bathrooms are risky to use now - especially with a toddler - as you never know who you're going to run into in there. It's simply not safe nor sanitary.

I once witnessed a woman punching her dogs in the face while screaming at them. I've seen verbal altercations in the afternoon between tent dwellers. Drug use or people passed out from

who know what. Police, Hamilton Fire, ambulances! I've seen many people roaming around the neighborhood carrying furniture, garbage bins, or riding a bill while carrying another.

There have been reports by neighbours of being chased by tent dogs that were not on leash. My neighbour recently had 2 bikes stolen from their backyard.

It feels like law enforcement cannot provide adequate support because they are called after the fact. I do not feel safe knowing we are essentially a target everyday.

I hope this email brings about some change.

Thank you for reading,
Laken