

From: Meredith Evans [REDACTED]  
Sent: June 18, 2024 10:33 AM  
To: [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
Subject: Encampments-my experience as a residence-for GIC Mtg on June 19 2024

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Written correspondence for: City of Hamilton, GIC Meeting, June 19, 2024, 5.0 Communications

I understand that the City of Hamilton is trying to deal with the complex issues associated with homelessness and encampments. However, I don't feel that encampments have a place in our community parks, especially Bayfront Park. The protocol allows encampments, though a short distance away, to back onto residences; in my case along Bay St N and Ferrie St W. I do not think this should be allowed. I have a fence but not all home owners are as fortunate.

I no longer feel safe in my own home, yard or neighborhood. The north side of Harbour Dr has experienced a disturbing number of incidents. It's easy to wander up from encampments and into backyards, esp. as spring//summer plants grow. This has resulted in home and shed break-ins, including with a weapon, and destruction and theft of property. Large tents and tarps and smaller scattered tents allow for storage of stolen goods including bikes and propane tanks.

I have contacted police on numerous occasions and had them visit or call; a person wielding a knife directly behind my property; last Thursday a loud aggressive altercation. Recently a person, in this section of the park, was accosted with a baseball bat and another threatened with a knife on Bay St N during the day. I have also contacted the fire department regarding open fires and propane tanks.

I've been told by police to lock up the back of my house and my shed when working in my front yard. I do a visual check of my yard each morning. I no longer feel comfortable sitting out in my backyard at night, even with my lights on. When on the street now, I watch to see if people are casing the neighbourhood. I'm more aware when walking and cross the road or step into the street when I feel uncomfortable about people in front/behind/approaching me. These are new and disturbing experiences for me.

At a recent North End Neighbours meeting a police officer stated that officers do not park and walk through Bayfront encampments after dark "because they are concerned for officer safety without backups available."

Parents of young children in our area have expressed to me that they no longer take their children to play in the open grass space on the north side of Harbour Dr or other areas with encampments. They are worried about needles and drugs.

It is uncomfortable walking up/down the Bayfront Park sidewalk. Tents and barking dogs are sometimes close. People, under the influence of alcohol/drugs, wander from their tents across the sidewalk and the roadway. This is a dangerous situation for all. Litter sometimes accumulates around the garbage can that abuts the sidewalk.

In summary, the encampments in Bayfront Park and near residential homes, including mine, have made me feel wary and unsettled. I do not feel as safe in my home, yard and neighbourhood as I have in the past.

Meredith Evans