

25 May 2024

To the mayor and councillors of Hamilton's council:

Hope this finds you – in the spirit of Dorothy Day's admonition to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable – both comforted and disturbed.

I am appalled at the deferral of Councillor Kroetsch's amendment, as reported by Saira Peesker on CBC Hamilton (23 May 2024), to provide more access to air conditioners for tenants in multi-residential units but want to thank Councillors Nann, Hwang, and Alex Wilson for supporting Councillor Kroetsch's amendment. Also, I would like to know if the mayor is going to go to the tenants quoted in Saira's article and tell them that she has a lot of time for this idea to happen, while both of those tenants and many others are sweltering in the heat. She may have a lot of time for this idea to happen, but others quite obviously do not have time for her and the large contingent of councillors to wrap their collective minds around this idea, which is not just an idea, an insubstantial concept, but a lived and embodied reality of people in this city. Further, \$52,000 is not that much money to spend on this; and yet, even if it were financially costly, there is no price to be put upon the sustaining of people's lives, young and old alike. It's rather interesting how \$214,800,000 can be given to policing services without any questions asked, but, somehow, \$52,000 for tenants to have air conditioning cannot be as easily given.

I would ask that Councillor Kroetsch's amendment be moved and, with hope, passed at the 3 Jun 2024 meeting of the city's public health committee, and subsequently the committee's report unequivocally adopted at the 12 Jun 2024 meeting of the city's council.

Thank you for your time and attention in these regards.

Regards,

Joshua Weresch, M. Div.,
Resident in Ward 8