

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Wednesday's docket

From: Hagglers Flea Market <sales@hagglersfleamarket.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2024 12:43 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Re: Wednesday's docket

> Hello, I hope this email finds you well.

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> I have contacted Matt Francis (we live in his ward) regarding a robbery that occurred yesterday at our business in Ward 4. He would like our statement to be on the docket for this coming Wednesday's council meeting.

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> This occurred on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 4:15 pm at Hagglers Flea Market at Strathbarton Mall. Our longtime goldsmith and jewelry vendor (of 40 years) was jumped from behind as he was leaving to go to his car. He was beaten and robbed of his entire inventory including other customer's jewelry that was brought to him for repair. He was targeted as they were caught on camera slashing his tire 45 minutes before. They knew who they were looking for.

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> This happened in broad daylight, during our business hours with many people/kids around and several customers and other vendors intervened. While admirable, this was a very dangerous situation as these men could have easily been armed. Our own son got to the car and grabbed the door as the thief was trying to close it when the driver started pulling away and he had to jump out of the way. They managed to get away. The police were called and they attended to the scene. The dollar loss was a whopping \$250,000 in gold and gemstones.

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> This is not the first time, either. Just 6 months ago, others used a distraction tactic and reached into the showcase and grabbed several trays. He and his accomplice were caught on Barton St., again by our son with the assistance of another vendor, brought back and the police were called. All the jewelry was recovered in that case and arrests were made. The case is now before the courts. But again, also dangerous to intervene like that.

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> In the 40 years we've been in business in this city, we have never seen brazen robberies such as this.

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> On Labour day weekend, a commercial garbage bin belonging to Strathbarton Mall in the front parking lot, was set on fire while there were 2 people inside of it, in retaliation by another. They were observed by others (mall staff) using intravenous drugs inside of the bin shortly before the fire. Police and fire attended that day.

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> In general, we are seeing more and more drug use, human defecation, prostitution in the alley with evidence of discarded tourniquets and other material.

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> It's out of control...every intersection, every park there are people begging or camping out. Drug use is rampant and we're not talking about people smoking joints either, it's primarily meth users and other 'hard' drugs. Frankly, I feel that our goodwill as a society is being taken advantage of. What we're doing now clearly isn't working.

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> What is crystal clear, is that we were all traumatized by the brazen robbery and violent assault that occurred yesterday, in broad daylight, to a dear friend and business associate of 40 years. He is effectively out of business and will not be returning. That is a loss to everyone. This should be of grave concern to those who are in charge of operating the city.

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> Sincerely,

> Cassandra Myers

> Owner

> Haggler's Flea Market (Haggler's Marketplace)