

From: BRENDA WILKIE [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:52 PM
To: McRae, Angela <Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Re: Concerned and heart broken Resident.

To ALL OBCM's, I can't not type this letter. My heart breaks Every time I see an encampment in my own City, or drive through another in Our Province. Truthfully, I am saddened but Not surprised at the no., of people that are homeless. The cost to buy, rent a home or apt., these days is ABSOLUTELY INSANE! It doesn't make sense! NONE! Retired couples have their children still living with them, families are doubling up to rent or possibly buy a home. MANY CANNOT afford to live on their own. People on unemployment or disability incomes live with family, friends, or on the street. If they're fortunate to find a place they can rent, they most likely, have to deal with mice, roaches, and other insects, none of us would want to wake up to every morning. To add to this horrible way to live, the food they can purchase after paying rent is SO VERY MINIMAL. These people, HUMAN BEINGS, like You and I, end up standing on islands looking for handouts to get a drink, or a bite of food. The rich can buy a home, eat organic food. Is it not right that the rest of society have their basic needs met?? We have gotten far away from TREAT OTHERS, the way YOU would expect to be treated. We ALL DESERVE a roof over Our heads, a pillow to lye Our head down at night, food, clothing, a chance to shower. I help sort clothes at my church for the homeless, others in Our church, hand out food, drink, clothes. This is only a start, there is SO MUCH MORE TO BE DONE! I know many living on the streets and in Our parks have alcohol and drug addictions. Instead of turning Our backs, let's start helping those who won't, or can't help themselves. Seriously, we want to live in a safe and clean environment So PLEASE, I Emplere You ALL, LETS DO MORE!! In one of Our parks downtown there is an encampment at one end, a security guard in the middle, and a kids playground on the other side, All in the same park space. This is NOT RIGHT! The chance of altercations from either side, used needles, empty or half full alcohol bottles is So Very possible! There are many parks and green spaces with these same concerns. WE CAN ALL DO BETTER! Our Canadian Anthem is full of promises. Are We showing Patriot Love, do We have glowing hearts? Are We strong and Free? Are our parks glorious? Are We free from homelessness, sickness, addiction, hunger and filth? These people, Our families, neighbours, and friends, need a HAND UP, NOT TO BE PUSHED DOWN! We ALL NEED; Shelter, food, warmth, safety, and LOVE! PKEASE, LETS DO MORE! Let's be part of the solution and not the problem. Tell me what more I can do PLEASE. Thank you for giving US, the RESIDENTS of Our own Cities a real voice. Sincerely, BRENDA WILKIE!

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This letter was written as part of Ontario's Big City Mayors' Solve the Crisis Project. Together, we are calling on the provincial government to take immediate action on homelessness and mental health issues in cities across Ontario. The Government of Ontario must appoint a single ministry and minister to lead the province's response and

create a municipal-provincial task force to direct resources and supports to our cities immediately.

Sincerely,

BRENDA WILKIE

HAMILTON, ON

