

> From: Cameron Stringer  
> Sent: September 12, 2024 12:09 PM  
> To: clerk@hamilton.ca  
> Subject: Delegation for September 18/24

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> My name is Cam Stringer. My wife and I purchased our Berry Avenue home in 1986. Berry Avenue runs north and south along the east side of Montgomery Park in East Hamilton. Why are we at city hall today? What are we trying to accomplish here today? Those are both good and fair questions I think, but I'm not quite sure of the answers. I was here for the General Issues Committee meeting in (I believe) early July to support a neighbour who was making a similar delegation. My recollection of events was that it was more of an attempt by the committee to "APPEAR" to be doing something, to appease those who are complaining, as opposed to actually doing anything, give the old college "TRY", so Mayor and Councilors alike could sleep better at night.

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> I say this because it's quite clear that nothing changed as a result of that July meeting. While tents continue to over populate almost all of Hamilton's parks, approved protocols that we were told would be the answer, go largely unenforced. Affected homeowners living in close proximity to parks are perpetually on alert and on edge as our new and transient neighbours come and go wherever and whenever they want, tenters who have no investment in, or respect for, the local neighbourhood in which they are freely squatting. Home owners who, before the arrival of tent encampments, chose to buy and live in homes abutting the parks are unable to relax and freely enjoy the use of their property, or sleep peacefully at night.

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> At that July meeting, during the delegations from citizens, homelessness and tent encampments were declared to be the pre-eminent issue facing the city, but our Mayor couldn't bother to attend to hear the delegations of concerned citizens. That July meeting seemed like nothing more than a dog and pony show to announce new protocols being the panacea, but without any meaningful plan or intent to enforce them.

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> Why are homeless people being brought to Hamilton on buses from other municipalities? Why are there no tent encampments in Burlington, Ancaster, Dundas, Binbrook and others?

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> Under this council, and to some extent the previous one, Hamilton has clearly become the receptacle of choice for human detritus from throughout the western golden horseshoe.

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> Has this council contacted neighbouring municipal governments to demand that they immediately stop the practice of rounding up homeless people for delivery by bus to Hamilton. People living near parks are unwilling witnesses to:

- > Open urination and defecation
- > Open drug use
- > Large piles of garbage are left behind when tenters leave one location for another  
Why are tenter's not required to comply with clearly posted by-laws? Why is there no enforcement of the same?
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- > There are rude, vulgar, threatening interactions with neighbouring tax paying residents who push back in any way, and are then subjected to rude, vulgar interactions with squatting tenters.
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- > Have any of you Councilors visited the parks to canvass nearby home owning residents, reach out, speak with them to understand what they are experiencing, what their concerns are? Does anyone at city hall answer their phones or return calls re messages left? Some tents in Bayfront Park have been there for more than 2 years.
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- > It's a tough job but you signed up for it. There's more to it than voting raises for yourselves. Do I sound bitter? I am! You're wasting my hard earned tax contributions.
- > Vulnerable seniors living around these parks are now afraid to live in their own homes. I was recently required to confront a tenter who was headed up my driveway toward my rear yard and/or garage in the middle of the afternoon.
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- > I never voted for, or asked my Councilor to vote for Hamilton to be a "sanctuary city". Perhaps it's time for a referendum.
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- > Cam Stringer
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- > Sent from my iPhone