

**From:** Gabriela Gonzalez

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:03 PM

**To:** Wilson, Maureen <[Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 1 Office <[ward1@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward1@hamilton.ca)>; [cameron.kroestch@hamilton.ca](mailto:cameron.kroestch@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Proposed Temporary Shelter and Community Engagement

Dear Maureen Wilson and staff,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment that neither you nor any representatives from wards 1 or 2 attended the community meeting held Monday October 21st at Bridgeworks. With about 200 people present, many of us were hoping to ask questions to have a better understanding of the proposed plan for the temporary shelter and to have our voices heard. I understand that you're working on a plan, but having someone present to hear our concerns would have been far better than choosing not to attend at all. Your absence, along with the lack of communication from your office, has left me feeling that our concerns are not being taken seriously.

Given that it has been acknowledged that the project is moving forward and is expected to be operational by December 1st. How do you plan to ensure that our voices are heard and that input from key stakeholders, such as the police, are considered?

One of the major concerns raised at the meeting was that the police, who were present, informed us that they were not consulted on this project for this specific site. While they maintained a neutral stance, they also noted that they are already struggling to meet the demands of the city. With this in mind, how can you guarantee the safety of our community when resources are already stretched thin?

It also seems contradictory to base this project on tiny home models in Kitchener - Waterloo that are not located near existing communities. If on-site services are being provided, why is proximity to other services a priority for this location? Many of us commute and navigate accessing services ourselves—why is the same not expected here?

Given that this project is reportedly moving forward, despite being termed "temporary," I have additional questions. The city plans to spend \$7 million from 2024 to 2025 and an additional \$3-4 million annually after that. What are the concrete strategies for the exit plan of this temporary shelter? Once we've invested over \$10 million to house just 80 people, what will be done to work toward a long-term solution for homelessness and housing insecurity?

Will the shelter remain in operation indefinitely, continuing to cost taxpayers \$3-4 million per year? Who will benefit from this, and what is the plan to transition these individuals out of the shelter and into permanent housing?

I strongly urge you to provide detailed plans that address not only the most vulnerable but also those at risk of losing their homes. We need a clear and effective long-term solution to address the city's housing crisis, not just a costly, temporary fix.

I look forward to your response.

Gabriela  
Ward 1