

**From:** Stacy Casini <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:09 PM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** GIC Meeting Re:Peace Memorial Park

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Good morning,

I am not able to attend the meeting on November 6th but would like to send in my impact statement.

I am writing you in hopes that we can highlight the safety issues that come from encampments in parks. We can all agree that everyone is entitled to a safe space and a roof over their heads. As a tax paying home owner why don't our rights to a safe environment matter?

We moved up the mountain about 12 years ago from a busy and dangerous area between King and Main. It was safer for our children to walk to school and play at the park. Now we live just behind Peace Memorial Park near Crockett. We thought it would be a beautiful space to raise our children with only 2 neighbours on each side of us, quiet elderly people. We thought having a view of the park and green space would be just perfect.

This past summer, however, we've had some new neighbours basically sharing our back yard. This is in addition to the trio of tents that are set up a view houses to our left. We don't have a deep lot and with the by laws being changed by our Mayor, anyone can set up a tent within meters of our back fence.

I'm not talking about people who've just fallen on hard times, maybe lost their job or their homes due to unforeseen circumstances. These people have lost their homes because they are dangerous drug addicts. My problem is not that someone can have a tent in my view from my home but that they bring criminals and more drug addicts to our once quiet area. Just this week I witnessed a shopping cart full of stolen Amazon packages be dropped off in the park and the woman who lives in the tent brings back all her stolen goods to her "home". I notified the non emergency police line but of course they didn't do anything about it besides speak to her. The couple there fight and argue non stop, yelling and swearing so loud that I can hear them with my windows closed.

A few days ago a drug dealer came to the tent behind my home bringing drugs to the woman and her friend. I'm sure this is one of many visits that will take place the longer they are here.

The larger set of tents has a propane generator hooked up. As you've reported there have been several fires within the encampments around the city and it's only a matter of

time before this one blows up. What will happen then? Will my fence and backyard be destroyed? Will my children be outside playing and lose their lives because this type of thing is somehow allowed in parks across the city?

Every day we fear for our lives because these people are feet from our fence and can see and hear us in our home. It's not like a normal neighbour, separated by space between the houses and walls. I can hear them talking if my windows are open. They can hear me calling my children's names for dinner. We have 5 kids by the way, ranging in age from 2 to 14 years old. They know when we're home and when we're not since they can look inside my home at any given time.

Encampment "rules" (I use that term loosely because nothing is enforced) state that tents cannot be within 100 meters of a school, playground or splash pad. However, there isn't a rule against having them right outside my home which is full of children.

The neighbours and I have sent several emails to city councillors and the mayor to no avail. No one can do anything. They've put new laws in place that enable these people to set up camp where ever they feel like. We even overheard the one lady tell the other that our park is on the list of parks that the unhoused can go to because it's safe. Well it used to be but not anymore because it's attracting more tents from the parks where tents are no longer allowed. How can one councillor ban tents from 7 parks in her area but no one else can? There aren't services up here for these people. There aren't food banks around here or public washrooms and showers. There is no reason why they should be displacing them further away from what they need to survive.

We need them out of any park that backs onto houses. We need them out of parks that have playgrounds. We need them out of parks that have war memorials. There are plenty of green spaces around the city that would be suitable.

This needs to be addressed by the media because obviously they do not care about the citizens living with and dealing with this on a daily basis.

Please help us restore our safe and clean community.

Stacy Casini

