

Hello,

My name is Rebecca Devine, I sent out several emails last month to city councillors that voted YES for encampments in our city parks. I want to personally thank the councillors that returned my email or took the time to personally call me and listen to my request for removal of encampments from our city parks. I was informed by a city council member that the city of Hamilton is currently being sued by the homeless for violating the Charter of rights, the right to shelter. While the lawsuit is before the courts, I'm pleading with all of you to amend the current encampment protocol to increase the distance from private property to 25 meters. Then encampment protocol was amended back in August allowing encampments to be near pathways and sidewalks, the previous protocol banned such encampments from these areas. So please I'm pleading with all of you to vote YES to increase the distance to 25 meters from private property.

I reside on east Hamilton Mountain which happens to back on to Peace Memorial Park. I would like to see all encampments removed from our city parks but. Increasing the distance to 25 meters from private property would help residents that back on to city parks. Only residents that back on to city parks understand the contestant fear we live in and numerous sleepless nights we've had to endure from having this encampment behind our home. It's funny people always say, "oh well it's not in my backyard." Well, it is in my backyard and this situation was created by the encampment protocol that all of you imposed on us residents. My husband is a retired Canadian Arm Forces veteran, and this is triggering his PTSD and I'm on the edge of a nervous breakdown. It's not your safety that is on the line it's ours. What will it take for all of you to realize that encampments are dangerous and don't belong in our city parks, does a stray bullet need to come through my back window, or a stray bullet kill a child playing in their backyard? The current encampment protocol distance of 10 meters from private property is unreasonable and needs to be increased immediately to a minimum of 25 meters for our safety.

We all know that Canada is facing a homeless crisis, and the city of Hamilton has imposed an encampment protocol on us residents that doesn't agree with over 500 000 tax paying residents. We shouldn't have to witness daily drug use, public urination and constant fighting in our backyards. Encampments need to be in a protected area by providing the homeless with necessities including running water, warm shelter and bathrooms. Peace Memorial Park provides none of these necessities. Encampments shouldn't be allowed in parks where children play, and every resident should feel safe in their own backyards.

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Devine

Ret. Corporal Adrian Devine RHLL