

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Proposed amendments to tailgating

From: Amanda Salonen

Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:06 AM

To: Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; rlennox-co@ndp.on.ca

Subject: Proposed amendments to tailgating

Firstly, thank you for the time you have given to review my letter.

My name is Amanda Salonen and I have been a Tiger Cat season seat holder for ten years.

It was with both regret and surprise that I learned of the possibility of the changes in Hamilton to tailgating functions.

For those that do not know and have not been party to a Lot E tailgate prior to a game, let me break it down for you.

My own group is about fifty strong. We have a group chat during away games outside of tailgating for our home games. We have several parking spots in lot E beside one another. We designate food amongst ourselves so often both lunch and supper (or breakfast and lunch for early games) are covered as we start early. Often someone is doing a CFL against Cancer fundraiser to donate and rallying the ranks to chip in. Hours in advance of a game we are there with our dining tents up: playing football, hosting CFL fans from out of town and eating quite a spread with bbq, hot plates and smokers. Someone will grab boxes of coffee and bring desserts as well.

Everyone is showing photos of their grandchildren and their latest trips. Buddies are planning future trips together. The ball is getting thrown back and forth. People come to our spot to see people. People in our spot do walkabouts to see others. This is fully accessible for all and this includes people utilizing wheelchairs. It includes people visiting from out of province. It includes young children with their parents. It includes generational fan families.

It is a union of like minded with a common interest. All are welcome and all attend. There is an element of camaraderie and fellowship within. It is so profoundly connected- socially and common goal wise, and it is well worthy of toasting.

So many things have changed these past few years and the design is to have us remain inside, remain at home, communicate electronically without face to face speech and to be isolated without connection to others. It lacks passion or the fellowship of a community of peers working towards a common goal.

This brings people into Hamilton and they come with their money. This gets people out to games. This sells tickets. This makes people spend in the north end on game day. This allows adults to make decisions that are adult decisions. This spends less tax dollars than regulating and staffing to process the proposed changes.

When you consider cities that have a football team and their policies related to this, this city has a responsibility to uphold and maintain same and similar for ours to function well. We have a responsibility to promote and maintain our team in Hamilton as they would be supported elsewhere. We have a duty to not regulate them in a way that costs them in comparison to other cities that have CFL football teams.

I ask you to endeavour to compare their community policies pre game and ensure that you are not putting our CFL team at a disadvantage (in comparison to every single Canadian football team). This affects support base community and ultimately revenue for unnecessary regulation specific to this area. You will find other municipalities circumvent this for their people and their due to their team.

To be considered also is that MANY SPOTS are ALREADY PURCHASED through the Tiger Cats at a cost of 200 plus tax per spot for the season and the team will have to refund that to individuals. It will be thousands for them to pay that back and that money is accounted for with some certainly spent by the team prior to this.

Best

Amanda Salonen