

Pilon, Janet

Subject: We're all in this together

From: Ron Lancaster

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To: Eisenberger, Fred; Wilson, Maureen; Farr, Jason; Nann, Nrinder; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Pauls, Esther; Danko, John-Paul; Clark, Brad; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi; clerk@hamilton.ca

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To Mayor Fred Eisenberger and City Councillors:

We're all in this together - is there anyone out there who has not heard or read this somewhere? Is there anyone who does not know what this means? Impossible you say? Well, actually no - the six members of the Party of No (PoN) do not know.

Given the environmental and health benefits of cycling and the ability to get around town, especially for low-income residents during these difficult times, it is hard to know how these councillors could possibly say no to supporting the SoBi program.

It is true that the SoBi program is only available in certain parts of the city, but that is because it would not be feasible to run it in rural wards. Besides, are members of the PoN willing to support SoBi in their wards? Probably not.

But all this misses the point - we are all in this together. Taxpayers pay for plenty of programs that are only available in certain parts of the city. We support each other. In fact, taxpayers in the urban wards pay a huge amount of money to support sprawl - suburban areas of the city are costly to service. Joseph Minicozzi, the principal of Urban3 and an urban planner, recently gave a public talk in Hamilton and he did the math and showed us that big box stores do not generate as much tax revenues for the city as do small businesses in the urban part of the city. Voting no to providing tampons, voting no to support SoBi,... One way for citizens to stop the no's is to vote no for members of the Party of No in the next municipal election. Another way that is ultimately better, would be for PoN members to recognize that we are all in this together.

Let's work together to support each other.

Ron Lancaster