

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Urgent! Add to upcoming council and committee agenda

From: Jessica DeSantis

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:10 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Chair and Member of the Office of City Clerk,

I hope this email finds you well during these troubled times.

I, like many others have watched, in horror the protests going on in American regarding BLM. I have watched peaceful protestors using their voice to speak for the need of reform get treated with the utmost immorality by the very people who are meant to serve and protect us. I am also concerned about the fact that systemic racism is an issue in our country, in our province and in this city.

It has long been known that black people have experienced death disproportionately during or following police contact, especially in police custody and detention. Black people have knowingly been punished further than white people when committing the same crime. Looking at these facts has me wondering why we have not yet taken the right steps to protect the black community... our people.

I am wondering if you are using your voice, the voice of ALL people to speak out on this urgent matter.

I have 4 things I ask of you:

1. Please write to Justin Trudeau asking him to denounce Trump's militarization of the protests in the USA.
2. Please work with Halton Police to make assurance that all protestors will not be met with excessive force during protests.
3. **Call on our government and look at the budget within Hamilton to support the reallocation of funds from the police into local support programs. ****
4. Use your platform to advocate for real change within the federal government to remove systemic bias and racism.

As a teacher of HWDSB, I see systemic racism played out everyday in the school system. A place where we are meant to mold our future and the future of our students. I have watched the defunding occur and ask that you also strongly reconsider how systemic racism is played out within our education system and how you will be investing in the future of our children.

Additionally, please personally commit to proactively increasing your understanding of these issues and take a stand against structural racism whenever you encounter it.

I know that standing up in a white dominated parliament is not an easy task, and that you will be subject to backlash. I want to acknowledge and honour your courage and stand by you.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Best Wishes

Jessica DeSantis