

Dear Guelph City Councilors,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the idea of a bylaw that would prevent encampments in the downtown core.

Denying unhoused people the meagre shelter that a tent provides without creating any other option for them is unconscionable. Where will they go? How much further from the already incredibly inadequate services they need to survive?

There is no way you could pass this off as being out of concern for the safety of the people living in these tents. It will be obvious to everyone that the City just doesn't want to be confronted with its own failure to provide adequate resources to its most vulnerable population.

I urge you to reject the Mayor's motion directing staff to draft this bylaw. Please do not criminalize the people that our city is unable or unwilling to help. Staff time would be better put to researching short-term measures to prevent people from dying over the winter, and real long-term solutions to the housing crisis.

Thank you,

Mandy Hiscocks, Ward 2