



Park People  
401 Richmond St. W. Ste 119  
Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3A8  
416-583-5776

[info@parkpeople.ca](mailto:info@parkpeople.ca)

[www.parkpeople.ca](http://www.parkpeople.ca)

Sept. 29, 2021

Dear City Council,

Park People is a national charity that helps people activate the power of parks in cities and communities across Canada. We are writing in support of the motion put forward by Councillors Matlow and Layton to hold a public inquiry into the encampment evictions that took place this summer.

We are deeply concerned about the unjust violence inflicted on our unhoused neighbours and their supporters in our city parks, including the involvement of the Toronto Police Service. Public parks are intended for all members of the public, and to target and criminalize unhoused people—who are legitimate park users—undermines the function of parks as open and accessible to all.

In light of September 30th's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, it is also important to remember that Indigenous Peoples are overrepresented in the city's unsheltered population. Displacement from parks entails ongoing colonial violence and land dispossession, when parks could instead be places of healing and reconciliation.

It is imperative that there is accountability for the harm caused to our most vulnerable community members, and we urge Council to support this motion and work toward more equitable, safe parks for all Torontonians.

Sincerely,  
Park People



**From:** [Adri Stark](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2021.MM36.25 on October 1, 2021 City Council  
**Date:** September 29, 2021 4:24:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of support - encampment inquiry.pdf](#)

---

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the October 1, 2021 City Council meeting on item 2021.MM36.25, Judicial Inquiry into Encampment Clearings - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments (also included in attached PDF letter of support):

Dear City Council,

Park People is a national charity that helps people activate the power of parks in cities and communities across Canada. We are writing in support of the motion put forward by Councillors Matlow and Layton to hold a public inquiry into the encampment evictions that took place this summer.

We are deeply concerned about the unjust violence inflicted on our unhoused neighbours and their supporters in our city parks, including the involvement of the Toronto Police Service. Public parks are intended for all members of the public, and to target and criminalize unhoused people—who are legitimate park users—undermines the function of parks as open and accessible to all.

In light of September 30th's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, it is also important to remember that Indigenous Peoples are overrepresented in the city's unsheltered population. Displacement from parks entails ongoing colonial violence and land dispossession, when parks could instead be places of healing and reconciliation.

It is imperative that there is accountability for the harm caused to our most vulnerable community members, and we urge Council to support this motion and work toward more equitable, safe parks for all Torontonians.

Sincerely,  
Park People

**Adri Stark** (she/her/hers)

Project Manager | [Park People / Amis des parcs](#)  
[astark@parkpeople.ca](mailto:astark@parkpeople.ca) | m: [647-234-2578](tel:647-234-2578)

City Builder's Lab | 401 Richmond St. W., Studio 119, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

[Read the 2021 Canadian City Parks Report](#) tracking the trends, challenges, and best practices in 32 Canadian cities.

Subscribe to [Park People's newsletter](#) | Facebook [ParkPeopleCA](#) | Twitter [@park\\_people](#) | Instagram [@parkppl](#)