

From: [Councillor Matlow](#)
To: ["Leigh Godbold"](#)
Cc: [Maria Rio](#); [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: RE: Message of Support: Judicial Inquiry into Encampment Clearings - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton
Date: September 30, 2021 5:21:08 PM

Thank you, Leigh. I really appreciate your support!

I've cc'd the Clerks to ask that they add this communication to the item (MM36.25).

Best,

Josh

Councillor Josh Matlow
Toronto-St.Paul's, Ward 12
City of Toronto
Tel: [\(416\)392-7906](tel:416392-7906)
[100 Queen St. W Suite A17](#)
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
Website: www.joshmatlow.ca
Twitter: [@joshmatlow](#)

From: Leigh Godbold [mailto:leigh@thestop.org]
Sent: September 30, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Councillor Matlow <councillor_matlow@toronto.ca>
Cc: Maria Rio <maria.r@thestop.org>
Subject: Message of Support: Judicial Inquiry into Encampment Clearings - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

Josh,

Thank you for your work to bring this motion forward. Please use the following as a message of support for the motion.

The City of Toronto continues to partner with the Toronto Police Service to further stigmatize, intimidate, and harass people experiencing homelessness and their advocates.

The City's approach to policing unhoused communities is violent and reprehensible. Did you know that unhoused people are 10x more likely to have a police interaction than those who are housed? That over 16,000 tickets are issued to people experiencing homelessness annually in Toronto? That one in five people in prison in Toronto were experiencing homelessness at the time of their arrest? These figures only intensify when we look at the policing and incarceration rates of Black and Indigenous communities in the city. **Policing and criminalization are not solutions to inadequate**

government supports that push people further into poverty and homelessness.

Two weeks ago following a peaceful press conference from encampment residents and their allies reflecting on the extreme force used by local police to clear out encampments, we saw the Toronto Police actively dox and arrest activists and encampment residents. These violent clearings and the continued targeting of encampment residents and local activists is not only inappropriate but immoral. While the City recently reported spending more than \$2 Million on police, private security firms, and equipment to clear select encampments in the downtown core, the housing crisis continues to intensify. While the City continues to fund the Toronto Police Service at over \$1 Billion annually- the largest percentage of the City's budget- our communities are faced with the devastating consequences of state violence against poor and working-class communities living on the streets.

The City must stop criminalizing poverty, and radically redistribute the resources dedicated to encampment clearings and the militarization of our local police force to aid the causes that save lives: accessible housing options for unhoused communities, holistic services and supports that address the roots of poverty. The City must give people adequate housing and income supports, and commit to ending the militarized violence police use against already marginalized populations.

Leigh Godbold

Leigh Godbold (she/her)
Executive Director
The Stop Community Food Centre
PO Box 69, Station E
Toronto, ON M6H 4E1
t: 416-652-7867 | c: 416-648-8834

The Stop is located on the territory of the Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Haudenosaunee, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Given the historic context of the land on which The Stop resides, it's imperative that we draw attention to the devastating impacts that decades of colonization have imposed upon Indigenous peoples. In the coming years, we will grow our Indigenous-focused programming and land work, while standing in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and other racialized communities that are seeking to reclaim their identities, health, land, and community resources.