

From: [Adam Golding](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: My comments for 2021.MM36.25 on October 1, 2021 City Council (Part 3)
Date: October 3, 2021 1:18:33 AM

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:

The following email is highly relevant, especially the hyperlinks:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Adam Golding [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 22 Sept 2021 at 15:23
Subject: Re: Moss Park
To: encampmenteoc <encampmenteoc@toronto.ca>, <Nabeelah.Jamal@toronto.ca>
Cc: 311 <311@toronto.ca>, Mayor Tory <mayor_tory@toronto.ca>, Councillor Layton <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, Joe Cressy, Ward 10 City Councillor <info@joecressy.com>, <councillor_carroll@toronto.ca>, <councillor_matlow@toronto.ca>, <councillor_perks@toronto.ca>, <publichealth@toronto.ca>, <ssha.homeless@toronto.ca>

Dan & Nabeelah, please show my remarks here directly to Jon Burnside & Chris Murray.

On Thu, 26 Aug 2021 at 17:04, encampmenteoc <encampmenteoc@toronto.ca> wrote:

Dear Mr. Golding,

Thank you for your voicemail message to the City Manager's Office and for bringing forward your concerns regarding the encampment at Moss Park

You're quite welcome, you will learn even more from this: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CT40zxNA4e7/>

City staff are listening to your concerns and taking them seriously. We must be certain that any action we take will not further harm vulnerable people who are struggling; however, we of course are also taking into consideration the community and the impact individuals are having on this community.

Your very language betrays your framing at the outset and you're blind to it--to whom do phrases like "the community" refer? To landowners and their tenants, but this isn't ancient Athens, this is a real democracy where everyone's vote is equal, and the majority have elected politicians who have enshrined various human rights in law, and will continue to do so as the legal system only gradually comprehends moral reality. I have heard from many that considerations of community SUPPORT encampments, as encampments PROVIDE community. Like seriously. I feel like I need to go take a shower just hearing you speak this way.

We have our outreach team Streets to Homes engaging this area to offer indoor space and/or housing services. On top of these outreach services, we will have our Encampment Office and/or Parks Ambassadors' team check in with individuals to discuss options around being a good neighbour, as well as identifying what belongings or garbage may be removed.

Does the city conduct any democratic polls of encampment residents? Are the questions themselves subject to vote?

The City will enforce bylaws at encampments after exhausting all options to help people move from encampments to safer, indoor spaces.

No, you won't literally exhaust all options, so don't lie to me. You won't try this: <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2021/09/21/toronto-could-have-spent-2-million-to-house-people-instead-it-spent-that-much-to-evict-them-from-parks.html> You won't try endorsing a path forward: <https://tdin.ca/announcement.php?id=2355> Go on, make a liar out of me.

Space remains available for all those living in encampments in the City's shelters and its hotel program.

Bullshit. Why? Not because it's false, but because it's deliberately vague--enough space for everyone outside? No! Enough space for reduced capacity due to COVID this winter? Absolutely not. This is why your totalitarian 'zero encampments' policy must end: it is mathematically impossible unless people sleep outside in the winter, which is coming. 50 people died just from exposure last year and that's about how many the police have arrested because of your approach to encampments--you left the morally conscious no option but to object, and the police no option but to follow your orders--you created this disaster that will make this Tory's last term. You must promote camping in some areas as a way of thinning out other encampments. You must use only the force of reason and positive incentives. Police are not to be involved. Poverty is not to be punished.

We do not discuss our enforcement timelines with the public.

You don't seem to understand that your 'enforcement timeline' is not a mere implementation detail but at its core a substantive policy that is seemingly immune to any form of democratic feedback on the relevant time-scale. What do I mean? **Your precious schedule is what caused violence.** I kid you not. By conducting mass evictions with large budgets concentrated on a single day, you create an almost irresistible financial incentive not to back down, even in the face of a truly morally compelling argument. If you were evicting one person at a time, you--that is, the police as directed by the city manager's office--could be reasoned with, as very few dollars would hang in the balance, just your measly soul, which you never valued much anyway. When a change of heart is practically impossible, immorality and violence result. It's also terrible from a public health perspective to scatter vaccine-hesitant populations across the city, and you should have followed the CDCs guidance to not relocate unhoused populations during the pandemic, which isn't over, by the way. Toronto declared a state of emergency for the first time in history, I watched the word's pass Mayor Tory's lips--this is an emergency, you have to stop all forced relocations, period.

These timelines often shift because we are working with people, and people's needs, hearts and minds can change. We do not want to set up false hope.

... as income approaches infinity, the speed with which one obtains housing also approaches infinity ...

... look at how much money we've just printed, and what did we spend it on--look at this graph on a 25Y time-scale: <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/money-supply-m0> ...

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Nabeelah Jamal (cc'd on this email) so she can set up a call with you and a member of the Encampment Office.

By all means, please take some time to reflect on what I've written with your colleagues first and then let's chat.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work towards a peaceful solution to this complex problem.

Never involve the police again, if you want peace. This is an empirical observation. Spend our millions elsewhere, for the love of God!

Yours truly,

Dan Breault

Encampment Office

City of Toronto

Flabbergasted,
Adam Golding