

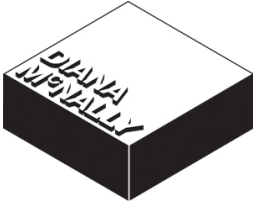
To Members of City Council,

No one – City staff, advocates, or unhoused people alike – want to see the violence that we saw at encampment sites in Toronto’s parks last summer. When the Ombudsman Toronto announced that their office would be investigating the City’s response to encampments, advocates like myself felt very strongly that this would result in meaningful change and better relations between the City and its unhoused residents.

While I do not feel that the Ombudsman’s interim report and recommendations address accountability for the harm caused to encampment residents last summer, they do present a blueprint for moving forward. I will continue to press for accountability in the Ombudsman’s final report, but in the interim I support the recommendations presented to you today – with a caveat.

In order for the City of Toronto to act in good faith, it must enforce an immediate moratorium on the removal of encampments while the report recommendations are being implemented. This includes the serving of eviction notices and the removal of any and all personal items belonging to people living outdoors, and particularly under threat or coercion.

Since City communications have stated that the City of Toronto will comply with all eight of the Ombudsman’s recommendations, there is an implicit acknowledgement that there is room for improvement in how encampments are engaged. As such, removing encampments using a known problematic strategy cannot continue while City staff, unhoused people, and advocates work together toward an encampment strategy that is adequate, safe, and satisfactory to all. To continue with encampment removals during this process will undermine any



willingness by government to work collaboratively with advocates, as well as unhoused people who are directly impacted by displacement.

I am pleased that the City has stated that it will uphold the recommendations. Thank you. I am ready to work with the City to ensure that this happens in a good way. This means establishing trust with people like myself as well as communities of unhoused people by placing a moratorium on encampment removals, effective immediately.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana McNally'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diana Chan McNally