

Aug 25, 2020

Dear Members of City Council:

As a resident of Ward 1, I am writing in support of the traffic calming measures scheduled to take place on Aberdeen Avenue.

My name is Tanya Irwin and my partner Brett and I, and our 3 month old pup Foxy, live at Aberdeen Ave. It is likely not news to you that Aberdeen is an incredibly busy road between Queen and the 403. Cars speed by at close to 100km/h at times. Pulling in and out of our driveway is hazardous. From our front porch, we have witnessed several near accidents, some of which occurred right in front of our driveway – a place we could easily have been standing while unloading groceries, taking Foxy out for a walk, etc. Pulling in and out of our driveway is hazardous. Erratic and speeding drivers use the right lane as a passing lane, the lane nearest us while we are on our driveway, walking our pup, or just taking a stroll. The drivers using the ostensibly “passing lane” accelerate in dangerous and unpredictable ways. The noise nuisance of the loud traffic is another story altogether.

Though these anecdotes are indeed reflections of our day to day reality on Aberdeen, the Information Update circulated on June 25, 2019 on Aberdeen Avenue Safety Measures quantitatively and compelling shows the very grave safety concerns of the current conditions on Aberdeen. The report finds that collisions on Aberdeen are almost 5x the acceptable rate for a safe street. Our anecdotal concerns are indeed a very real lived reality.

Though I realize the residents on Aberdeen are a minority number in Hamilton as a whole, I am perplexed as to why our safety is considered less of a priority than our community members who live on neighbouring streets. I know our neighbours on Homewood et al. have concerns about traffic being redirected on their streets - but they fail to recognize that Aberdeen is a residential street as well, with plenty of people living here too. If it is the case that traffic is split between the streets, it seems fair, and less of a risk to those of us living on Aberdeen. Further, this is not an issue for Aberdeen residents alone. I know many people, families, and children in our community frequently cross Aberdeen to access our gorgeous trail system, Locke street, or parks.

In the name of a progressive, bike, pedestrian, family, and puppy friendly city – I implore you to support our plea for a safer community.

Thank you for all of your hard work, and for reading my support and plea for the city to fulfill its plan to reduce Aberdeen to two lanes.

Sincerely,

Tanya Irwin, Brett Snider, and Foxy