

Pilon, Janet

Subject: A Resident's Letter: Noise and Safety Concerns Along Rymal Road in Ward 9

From: Sarah Chudak

Sent: June 7, 2023 1:45 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>

Subject: A Resident's Letter: Noise and Safety Concerns Along Rymal Road in Ward 9

Hello Mayor Horwath and fellow City Council Members,

My name is Sarah Chudak and I am writing to you today on the suggestion of my City Councillor, Mr. Brad Clark.

I am a resident of Ward 9 and I reside in Summit Park. In fact, my house directly faces Rymal Road, near the Eramosa Karst.

I have noticed that since the construction along Rymal ended a few years ago, there has been a large uptick in the amount of commercial vehicles (namely transport trucks) traversing Rymal Road.

Speed along Rymal has been an ongoing issue for quite some time now. In an effort to combat this, the city placed a number of new traffic lights. On the stretch of Rymal between the Upper Red Hill Parkway and Centennial Parkway alone, there are at least 8 separate traffic lights. You can't go more than a few hundred metres without reaching a light. This was meant to be a traffic calming measure. Coupled with the fact that the speed limit is 60 km/h, vehicles should have plenty of time to stop before they hit the next light.

Recently, I have noticed that the use of Air Brakes from all of the large vehicles on Rymal has become a big problem. The brakes are so loud, they set off the baby monitor in my child's room and shake our windows. This has greatly decreased my ability to enjoy where I live, and has become a huge noise nuisance to the houses living on or near Rymal.

I asked Councillor Clark if there was a prohibition on the use of air brakes, as I know some places in the city do have this. He mentioned that the city said that this would be a "liability" but I am wondering why this is, as I can't see a reason that trucks would need to use their air brakes unless they were speeding (which they almost always are).

In fact, speeding has been such a problem along Rymal, especially now that the road has been widened to 4 lanes, that the Hamilton Police Services have frequently implemented speed traps and have spoken to frequent offenders who have been caught on camera going well over the speed limit.

I am concerned, not only from a noise perspective, but from a safety perspective - bus stops are on both sides of Rymal and there are no bus shelters available for people. God forbid someone was waiting for the bus along Rymal when someone was speeding and lost control, hitting them.

I am hopeful that the new City Council will have the resolve to address these issues and make the city a more enjoyable and safe place for all of its residents.

I would love to discuss this issue in more depth with you if you wish. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Chudak