

From: jumana dajani
Sent: February 10, 2025 2:40 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: GIC Agenda of February 26th

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear GIC Committee,

I am writing in absolute frustration, anger, and desperation regarding the GFL landfill site near Green Mountain Road West, Stoney Creek Hamilton. The situation is beyond unacceptable—it is a full-blown crisis that is destroying our community's quality of life, and the inaction from those responsible is nothing short of disgraceful.

1. The Stench of Negligence: The revolting stench emanating from the landfill is unbearable, making it impossible to live, breathe, or even step outside. Every single day, we are forced to endure the nauseating, toxic mix of gas leaks, rotten eggs, and decaying matter. The stench is overpowering that it invades our homes, turning it into an unlivable hell. This is not a minor inconvenience—it is an environmental disaster that has been ongoing since 2023, despite relentless complaints. The complete disregard for our well-being is appalling.

2. Blatant Noise Violations: On top of the choking odor, residents are now being bombarded by noise pollution from the landfill site. Hammering and chiseling noises—clearly violating local noise bylaws that prohibit such disturbances before 7:00 AM. This is not an isolated incident; **GFL repeatedly ignores regulations and continues to operate with impunity.** Why are they allowed to get away with this blatant disregard for the law?

3. Empty Promises and Gaslighting Responses: Since Summer of 2023, I and the whole community have tirelessly lodged complaints, desperately seeking a solution. What have we received in return? Generic, meaningless template responses from both GFL and the Ministry of Environment, as if we are mere statistics to be brushed aside. We have logged hundreds if not thousands of pollution reports on the Ministry of Environment's website, as well as on GFL website, yet NOTHING has changed. The odorous nightmare persists.

GFL officials in fact have repeatedly insulted our intelligence with laughable responses like: "*the landfill was not operational during the time the smell was reported.*" OR "*GFL staff drove to your home and conducted a perimeter check. A strong wood-burning odor was evident. We assessed the situation and determined the odors did not correlate with landfill activities.*"!!!!!!!!!!!!.Are you kidding me? The smell the community is being suffocated with is **gas, sulfur, rotten eggs, cat urine**—not wood burning. This is an outright mockery of the residents suffering day after day. GFL is drowning us in chemicals to cover up the real issue, likely exposing us to even more hazardous substances.

4. The Impact: Financial Ruin and a Public Health Crisis The sheer irresponsibility of extending the landfill's operation instead of shutting it down is infuriating. Home values have plummeted by at least **\$100,000 to \$150,000** due to this disaster. We cannot sell or rent our homes—who in their right mind would want to live in a **sewer**? This isn't just about inconvenience; it is about the destruction of lives, financial security, and mental health. And the story is now repeating itself, to make matters worse, a school is set to open in the area in 2027. How can children be expected to learn and grow in an environment filled with toxic fumes?

We are **DONE** waiting. The only viable solution is to **shut this landfill down immediately**. Enough with the band-aid fixes that clearly do not work. We demand immediate, decisive action, not another empty statement or bureaucratic delay. **The health, (both physical and Mental) and safety of thousands of residents are at stake.**

I am attaching a Word document detailing my several email efforts to escalate this urgent matter to multiple authorities, all of which have been met with inaction. Despite repeated attempts to demand real solutions, no meaningful action has been taken to date.

Please consider this serious desperate plea. We demand answers, we demand accountability, and we demand results.

On behalf of a disappointed, exhausted, and desperate community

Jumana Dajani

(Action Demand email #1)

From: Jumana Dajani

To: mayor@hamilton.ca, brad.clark@hamilton.ca, donna.skelly@pc.ola.or, david.piccini
co@pc.ola.org, sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org, premier@ontario.ca, MTaylor-
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d@parl.gc.ca, steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca, matt.francis@hamilton.caHide

Bcc:

Wed, Sep 27, 2023 at 4:48 PM

Dear Sir, Madam

I hope this letter finds you in good health, but I regret to inform you that my own well-being has been severely compromised by an ongoing and distressing situation.

With a heavy heart, I write to express my extreme frustration, disappointment, and heartbreak due to the unbearable circumstances that have befallen me and my family in our new home. This letter serves as a desperate plea for help and a cry for justice.

For five long years, my family and I diligently saved every penny, made countless sacrifices, and dreamed of the day when we could finally afford the down payment for our first home. That dream came true in February 2023 when we closed the deal on our house in the Victory Empire community on Green Mountain West, Stoney Creek, Hamilton Ontario.

It was a day we had anticipated with excitement and joy, believing it to be the crowning achievement of our lives, especially given the exorbitant house prices and mortgage rates at their peak. We chose to purchase our house in this location because we fell in love with the area and with how clean and pure the air was up on the mountain

At the time of our home purchase, we sought reassurance about the GFL site located opposite our new residence. We were explicitly told that this industrial site was entirely safe, and we were fortunate to have a protective shield of lush green trees outlooking the view of windows. We were assured that the industrial facility had operated without issue for a considerable duration, and, as residents of phase 4 of our community, we were told that no previous complaints had arisen concerning odours or noise due to the nature of the industrial waste it handled.

However, as winter gave way to spring, our idyllic life turned into a harrowing nightmare. An overwhelming, noxious odour, reminiscent of rotten eggs or toxic gas, permeated the entire vicinity. By May, we were forced to keep our windows sealed shut, for fear that our home would become saturated with the repugnant stench. What should have been a time of enjoyment during the spring and summer months

was transformed into an ordeal that took a toll on our physical and emotional well-being.

My family and I are not the sole victims of this abhorrent situation. The whole of Victory Empire community on Green Mountain West share our anguish. Stoney Creek residents as far east as 5th road, north to Barton Street, south to Summit Park and West to Red Hill have also complained of the horrible smell. Together, we have raised our voices in protest, pleading for a resolution to this untenable issue. Yet, our appeals have thus far fallen on deaf ears. To our dismay, the stench grows more unbearable with each passing day. I have spent countless nights in tears, and I have been forced to concoct excuses to deter visitors from our home, such is the shame I feel about the pervasive odour. I know of many residents in the community who have reported health issue related to this disgusting smell varying from sore throats, headaches, nausea, vomiting to the extremes measures of anxiety and mental and phycological issues!!!

Our plea is simple but urgent: We implore you to take action by shutting down the GFL site. No alternative solution can adequately address the severity of this issue. We, the residents of Victory Empire, need this blight on our lives to be eradicated so that we can regain the peace, health, and happiness that should rightfully accompany homeownership. We have addressed this issue on several occasion with GFL and it is very disappointing to say that they have referred to the smell as being occasional!!!! Reality is that had been consistent, and it should not even be acceptable to have any smell in the first place!!

Canada, its leaders, and its institutions have always been committed to ensuring the highest quality of life for its citizens. I beseech you to regard this matter with the utmost urgency, empathy, and determination. Imagine for a moment that you and your loved ones were living in our community, experiencing the same distressing conditions that have befallen us. I implore you to stand in solidarity with us and act swiftly to rectify this grave injustice.

We look to you for hope, relief, and a restoration of the tranquillity we so ardently sought when purchasing our home. Please hear our plea and act decisively to close the GFL site. Our lives and well-being depend on your intervention.

Please please please put an end to our misery.

Sincerely,

Jumana Dajani

(Action Demand email #2)

From: Jumana Dajani

To: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 1:22 PM

Dear Minister Khanjin,

I trust this email finds you in good health. I am writing to represent the residents of the Victory community, located off Highway 20 (upper centennial) and Green mountain Road West in Stone Creek, Hamilton Ontario. Our community has been grappling with significant challenges, and we were referred to your office by the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's team as the appropriate point of contact to address these pressing issues.

Across from our community lies GFL Environmental (<http://gflstoneycreek.com/about-us>), a facility that specializes in receiving solid, non-hazardous residual materials from various commercial, industrial, and institutional sources. Their operations, as detailed on their website, encompass the handling of materials such as residues from local steelmaking and other industrial processes, excavation materials from industrial sites, and construction/demolition materials and rubble, primarily originating from the Hamilton Area. It is crucial to note that their site does not handle municipal garbage.

Since May of this year, our community has been enduring a range of challenges stemming from the activities at the GFL site. These issues encompass concerns related to environmental impact, air quality, and our overall quality of life. Regrettably, the situation has deteriorated to the point where we are compelled to endure an unbearable stench on a daily basis. We firmly believe that the operations of GFL Environmental are the primary source of this odorous problem, which can be aptly described as a combination of a noxious gas, burning rubber and cat urine. The odour has reached intolerable levels, causing serious health problems for many residents, including persistent headaches, nausea, vomiting, coughing, eye irritation, sinus issues, respiratory issues and a prevailing sense of depression. This situation has severely restricted our ability to open windows, go for walks, or even have guests over due to the overwhelming and embarrassing odour.

In response to these challenges, our community has established a Facebook group called "SHUT DOWN THE STONEY CREEK DUMP" to collectively address our concerns and brainstorm potential solutions to alleviate our suffering. We also submitted hundreds of pollution reports to the ministry of environmental concerns in Ontario, we approached contact GFL addressing our persistent problem and all we got back from them was that they were working on finding a solution, we gathered up in the community park with councillor Brad Clark to address this issue with the

Ministry of Environment in presence of the media (you can find media coverage of this situation on utube) .But non of the above had resulted to a solution to our misery. The smell had been getting worse month by month that it is now inside our homes and not only outside.

We strongly request your assistance in resolving this matter.

I urge you to review my email to Mr. Trudeau for more comprehensive details about my agonizing personal experience. Additionally, we encourage you to peruse the Facebook group for up-to-date information regarding this distressing situation.

Minister Khanjin, we humbly request your support and guidance in investigating the impact of GFL Environmental' s operations on our community and in seeking viable solutions to mitigate the adverse effects. We firmly believe that your office's involvement will play a pivotal role in safeguarding the well-being of the residents of the Victory community.

We sincerely appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent matter and eagerly anticipate your assistance in addressing our concerns. Your dedication to the welfare of all Canadians is greatly valued.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jumana Dajani

(Action Demand email #3)

From: Jumana Dajani

To: mayor@hamilton.ca,brad.clark@hamilton.ca,elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca,donna.skelly@pcola.org,andra.khanjin@pc.ola.org,sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org,premier@ontario.ca,Mstiles-QP@ndp.on.ca, jfraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org,justin.trudeau@parl.gcca,mark.holland@parl.gc.ca,steven.guilbeault@parl.gcHide

Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 1:43 PM

Dear respectful decision makers,

I trust this email finds you well. I am writing to you today as a concerned resident of the Empire community, located off Centennial Street West and Green Mountain West. I had previously reached out to your office in September 2023 regarding a distressing matter that has been plaguing our community—namely, the noxious and unbearable Odor emanating from the GFL Stoney Creek Regional Facility.

Last summer was an extremely challenging time for my family and me, as we endured a pervasive and foul air quality issue that prevented us from opening our windows, inviting people over to enjoy the outdoors, sitting in our backyard, or even taking a simple walk around the neighbourhood. Despite our diligence in choosing a newly developed area away from industrial zones, we found ourselves subjected to an intolerable stench that significantly impacted our quality of life.

Our first-owned home, which we invested our hard-earned savings into, was meant to be a sanctuary of peace and clean air. However, the distressing Odor persisted throughout the summer, prompting protests and complaints from numerous residents. Subsequently, the Ministry of the Environment conducted air quality tests, leading GFL to implement temporary solutions that provided only momentary relief. The problem has reemerged in the last month, impacting our lives once more, and we are now fearful of experiencing another challenging summer similar to the one we endured last year.

The unbearable smell, reminiscent of animal urine or gas leakage, permeates our homes even with windows closed. Additionally, the unsightly hills of material dump near the GFL site are an eyesore, replacing the once picturesque view from our windows with a scene of environmental degradation.

What troubles me further is the response we receive from GFL when we lodge complaints through their website. They dismissed our concerns, citing a lack of information and implying that the odour was not confirmed to be from their operations. They even send representatives to go door to door telling people that the smell is gone!!! Its like they want people to believe the opposite of what reality is.

This dismissive attitude is particularly concerning given that the smell persisted around the clock during the summer and is now back so strong again.

A Facebook group named "SHUT DOWN THE STONEY CREEK DUMP," boasting 1.2k members comprising individuals residing in the vicinity of the GFL dump was created to address this issue. The community has come together to address the ongoing challenges and collaboratively seek a resolution to the distressing situation, aiming to restore a peaceful living environment in our neighbourhood. We encourage you to explore the page, where you'll find documented comments from affected residents highlighting the severity of this issue.

I reach out to you, esteemed decision-makers, with a plea for assistance in bringing an end to our community's suffering. We implore you to investigate this matter thoroughly, hold GFL accountable for their actions, and consider closing down the facility to restore peace and well-being to our lives.

Your attention to this urgent matter is greatly appreciated, and I hope you understand the depth of frustration, mental, and emotional distress that we, as a community, are enduring.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jumana Dajani

(Action Demand email #4)

From: Jumana Dajani

To: Chabot, Katherine

Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 11:56 AM

Dear Katherine,

Thank you for your email and the information provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

We appreciate the efforts being made to address the odour concerns at the GFL Stoney Creek landfill site. However, it's disheartening to note that, despite reassurances, the issue persists, the smell is still there and is still very disgusting and awful and the mounting waste has become a pressing concern for our Victory community.

Since the problem began, residents have consistently received updates indicating that the problem originates from the leachate, and GFL is actively working on solutions. Nevertheless, the existence of the smell since last May 2023 and the increasing height of the waste pile, especially near Victory community, adds to our distress. Especially that the summer is approaching and we are so worried that the issue will continue to remain unresolved and we will not be able to sit outside and enjoy our summer that we wait all winter for.

The prolonged duration to resolve this issue has left us without clarity on when this situation will come to an end. The response we receive from GFL, denying odour on the reported days and times, is also very frustrating. If we report the smell during the weekend, they reply back saying that they were closed on the weekend, or they say that the wind on the day was going to the other direction, they simply don't want to own the problem and are always on the defensive mode instead of providing us with reassurance that they are working on resolving the issue. We firmly confirm in the community that, whether the plant is open or closed, the leachate odour persists, and we seek transparency regarding the measures in place to eliminate this persistent stench, which we are not able to receive from anyone at this point.

While we acknowledge the interim measures that have reportedly led to very slight improvements in odour levels, we urge for a more permanent resolution. Our community deserves to breathe clean air like every other community in Canada. The uncertainty surrounding the closure of the landfill site, which is the only solution we currently see has become a source of frustration for us as citizens.

We kindly request clear and definitive action plans from GFL and from your end to bring an end to our ongoing distress. We just seek more transparency and clarity on the steps GFL is taking instead of doubting our complaints when we complain to

them. Understanding the steps being taken and the timeline for a permanent solution will go a long way in reassuring our community.

We trust that the Ministry will continue to work closely with GFL to ensure comprehensive efforts are made to minimize odour impacts on our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to a prompt and effective resolution.

Best regards,

Jumana Dajani