

From: Margaret Graham
Sent: February 22, 2025 10:15 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Margaret Graham

Subject: GIC Agenda of February 26th

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City Council:

My family has been tremendously affected by the horrible odour emitted by the GFL landfill. At times it cannot even be referred to as simply an odour, but should be referred to as a stench because it has been so horrific that we have been unable to venture outside without feeling sick to our stomach. The terrible stench also comes into our house through our ventilation system, which instead of receiving a "fresh air" return, we are left with air that is most likely harmful to our health.

I am extremely disappointed and disgusted with how GFL, the City of Hamilton and the Ministry of the Environment are handling the GFL landfill. When we purchased our new build home in 2015, we were told by Empire Homes that the landfill was going to be closing. We soon discovered this was not true when we moved into our home in 2018 and found out the landfill was still operational. However, we did not notice any significant odour issues until a couple years ago when we noticed the horrific stench that smelled like rotten eggs, rotten fish, sulphur and others that I cannot even begin to describe. Our family has always had a very active outdoor lifestyle with bicycle riding, going for walks, playing basketball, flying kites, etc. Or we have enjoyed relaxing outside on our front porch or in our backyard. Well, all of this has come to a full stop due to the experiences we have had when we try to enjoy some outside time, and this has affected our quality of life. We have had to drive long distances away to find parks where we can go to enjoy time outdoors and can't even sit outdoors on our own property without smelling some kind of odour.

Not only is our "outdoor time" affected, but our "indoor time" has also been affected. We have to keep all our windows closed and cannot even open our patio door. We also have had to turn off our fresh air return system and cannot circulate outside air inside of our home otherwise the stench comes into our home. Sometimes the stench is even worse in the middle of the night when we're sleeping and we often wake up to our house smelling horrible. We are worried about our family's health and have air purifiers throughout our home and in each bedroom for peace of mind.

I was also recently diagnosed with a health issue which required me to have surgery on January 24th. I feel this medical condition may also be connected to the air quality and I am consulting with a lawyer in this regard.

As a homeowner, a few blocks away from the GFL landfill, I need to have peace of mind knowing it is not affecting my family's health, and I feel the only way to accomplish this is to have this landfill shut down. Homeowners should also be receiving a reduction in our property taxes due to the issues we have been experiencing.

I trust the City will consider our concerns and act in the best interests of residents.

Thank you.

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Margaret Graham