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**Sent:** February 25, 2025 11:39 AM  
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**Cc:** Clark, Brad <[Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** Submission for General Issues Committee meeting February 26, 2025

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To the General Issues Committee,

Please forgive that my submission was prepared very quickly and may not be as well structured and articulate as I would normally have it. Life as a full-time working mom of two young children and a committed volunteer means squeezing in this advocacy for the health and well-being for our community in between it all.

What's most disturbing is that one would think this isn't needed – that our elected officials and governments are already doing this on our behalf. But the ongoing issues with the GFL landfill have demonstrated that's not the case. It's outrageous that both levels of government – both provincial and municipal – point their fingers at one another over the disastrous situation with the GFL landfill, with the community caught in the middle and left to directly live in the aftermath.

This includes not being able to open windows to enjoy fresh air, incurring higher hydro bills to keep air conditioning running to purify the air, shortening time spent outside on stinky days or staying outside to let the kids play at the park but the experience dominated by the stink, not being able to be active in the community such as going for a run or playing golf at the nearby golf course because of the stink or grotesque mountains of waste, the mountains of waste diminishing the beauty of and being an embarrassment to our community, etc. I have not been able to plant a vegetable garden with my young children because of concern for what's blowing off the mountains of waste and so the learning and bonding opportunity is lost. I worry about my child's chronic lung issue and how the odours and/or particulate waste blowing in our community impacts it. The list goes on and unfortunately my time is limited to capture it all.

While some may flippantly say, why not just move, that's not so easy. Our young family has established roots here. We have spent countless hours in neighboring places such as parks and going for walks in the streets that form the earliest memories for our children. They have established friendships that very well could last their lifetime. We're integrated into community places and functions that enrich and add purpose to our lives. All of these things mean something for our quality of life, and we won't let GFL rob that of us too.

Please, City of Hamilton council, stop pointing fingers and do something to hold GFL accountable. The community is doing their part many times over – a petition with over 4,000 signatures, monthly GFL meetings, newspaper articles, protests, filing odour complaints, advocacy with municipal and provincial representatives, keeping the community updated, etc. We have done enough and we need help.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Roediger