

Hello,

My name is Stephanie and I have lived on [REDACTED] since June 2014. First i'd like to mention how much I love the City of Hamilton, the community, the structure, the family based feeling. It truly is an incredible City.

I am a mother of 3 who loves to be outside with my kids. Ask anyone in our neighbourhood and they can tell you that we "live" outside. This soot is beginning to affect our lives to an extreme that is worrisome.

Below you'll find my timeline for the soot to the best of my knowledge.

May 16th 2022

This was the first date that I noticed a major change, there was black soot on everything and everywhere. I tried to raise attention to the City but it was unheard and shut down. I would have to mop my deck before going outside, would have to change clothes and wash my kids down prior to coming inside from anywhere.

Sep 2022

There was another fall out causing major coverage to our entire yard, and property.

From here I did not have concerns until....

May 9th 2024

I emailed the City of Hamilton asking them to power washing the play structure at St.Christopher's park due to the black soot. My kids were going down the slide once and turning black. Their clothes and shoes were staining even if we washed them as soon as we got home. It's so gross and sad. Attached you'll see a photo of my youngest who went down the slide ONCE and looked like that. Phil confirmed that the City would power wash the playground and he confirmed it did happen on May 31 & June 6.

June 5th 2024

We woke up and noticed a large amount of black particles all over our neighbourhood, neighbours and I expected to see that a company around us has an oopsie just like in 2014 with the acid exposure from Dofasco. But no, there was no attention brought to this.

All summer it was horrible, scary when you think of it. If we can see this what can't we see?

Sept 13th 2024 was another large fallout.

See photos attached to see brand new shoes, and my children's body from being outside at the park for 2 minutes. (yes I timed it) we had to come back inside because I worry for their health what we are touching or breathing in. It truly looks like they are playing in a pile of coal. The shoes in the photo were brand NEW! Not worn at all except from my house on [REDACTED] to St.Christopher's park one slide and back. Imagine telling your kids that they can no longer use

the park or play outside because mommy can't confirm if it's healthy or not. The feeling defeats you, it destroys you. As a parent all you want is what is best for your kids. In this case, I thought Hamilton was best, but Is it?

Those are just a few days that I can remember clear as day, there have been many other dates that I have taken photos, complaint to members of the city and wards, I even tried reaching out to higher up like Doug Ford and Justin Trudeau because I am desperate, begging, pleading for someone to open their eyes and see this is not okay, this is not normal. I've been here since 2014 and it has never been like this.

Many of us behind centre mall came together to go door to door asking the neighbours if they felt the same, if they'd help us fight this battle, help us do better for us and the environment. Many of us reach out to public health and get samples and the attitude and negativity we received from many members was disturbing. Not to mention the abundance of emails we have sent many people of importance, including but not limited to City of Hamilton, and Public health.

A gentleman named Jordan came to my home to test the particle. He was very kind and sounded like he understood my concerns for our health, especially my children. As a mother you're supposed to protect your children, do what is best for them and here I am potentially allowing this business who is creating this soot to poison them, imagine how that feels. When Jordan came to take samples he was firm on only taking fresh samples however I requested and demanded that he take samples from other areas as it was clear there were two types of material in my backyard.

Today I am not only asking, but I am begging you to help. Please vote in favour of this motion to help us ensure we are able to enjoy this wonderful City. Help us continue to better the City, better the community and help create a forever home for all of us. Our friends, family, children, pets, neighbours, wildlife, the employees of the business(es) creating the soot we all deserve better.

Thank you for your time.

Stephanie A Mother & her incredible children who deserve better.















17

