

From: Audrea DiJulio [REDACTED]
Sent: March 14, 2025 9:20 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Black Soot Delegation (written submission)

Delegation Regarding Black Soot and Air Pollution in Hamilton

Good evening, Mayor and Councillors,

My name is Audrea DiJulio, and I have been a resident of Ward 4 or Ward 3 for over 16 years. I come before you today to speak on an issue that has deeply affected our community for far too long — the problem of black soot in our air, a fine particulate form of air pollution primarily made up of black carbon. This black soot is a byproduct of the incomplete combustion of volatile organic compounds and is harmful to both the environment and public health.

This issue has been largely overlooked for many years, despite the serious implications for the residents of this city. For too long, the sources of black soot have been attributed to various causes, such as vehicle traffic, or near by industry without any real understanding of the problem, cause or concrete steps to address it. The concentration of black soot in the air has been high enough in recent years that it's now visible, and its presence is a serious concern for our health and well-being. Black soot is linked to increased mortality and many chronic diseases, and its long-term effects on our community cannot be ignored any longer.

As someone who has lived here for over 16 years, I can tell you that this has been a persistent problem that has fallen on the deaf ears of many city councillors. There has been little response to this growing concern until now. But I am encouraged to see that councillors are finally responding to the issue and that a mechanism is being developed for constituents to voice our concerns. I appreciate the attention this matter is finally receiving.

I must admit, there have been many times when I have debated leaving this city with my family in search of a healthier environment. However, I have come to realize that if we do not stay and fight for the health of our city and its residents, then who will? We need to come together as a community, not as opponents — city versus constituents — to address these serious concerns and work toward making Hamilton a healthier and safer place to live.

I am deeply concerned about the long-term impacts of black soot, which we cannot yet fully see, document, or understand. This uncertainty is terrifying, but it is a fear we must face head-on. We owe it to our families, our neighbours, and future generations to work together to address this problem now.

I strongly support the motion to develop a feasibility study, as recommended in this resolution, conducted by an unbiased third party. This will provide us with the necessary data to make informed decisions and move toward creating safer, thriving neighbourhoods in Hamilton. I urge you to consider this motion and work toward the betterment of our city, our residents, and our collective health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Audrea DiJulio

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Hamilton On

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