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Pilon, Janet

Subject: Public Health Sub-Committee motion on air quality testing of black soot residue deposits in wards 3 & 4

From: Miriam

Sent: March 14, 2025 7:46 PM

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Subject: Public Health Sub-Committee motion on air quality testing of black soot residue deposits in wards 3 & 4

Dear Councillors and Mayor,

On Monday you, as the City's Public Health Committee, will discuss a motion concerning air quality testing of black soot residue deposits on residential properties and on City properties and facilities such as local parks and play structures in Wards 3&4. This black carbon particulate matter is associated with serious negative health outcomes and even increased risk of mortality; it can also be very distressing to the residents to have to constantly guard against exposure to it in and around their homes.

I live in Ward 1, but have been diagnosed with a chronic lung disease, the cause of which may or may not be pollution. I know first hand what it's like to have breathing difficulties. Small airways disease is just one of many conditions that may be caused by fine particulate matter, PM2.5.

What happens in ward 3&4 doesn't stay in wards 3&4: soot can spread in the environment, and might affect any of us - we have all seen how the smoke from Canada's wildfires reached as far as New York City and Europe. Black carbon particles are even collecting in the pristine Arctic snow, darkening the surface of the snow and ice and causing it to absorb more heat.

Having a "sacrifice zone" in our City should be unacceptable to any of us, no matter whether we are directly affected or not. Preventable harm must be prevented. The City is the level of government that is the closest to us, the residents of Hamilton, and I hope I am correct in assuming that each and every one of you, our elected City Councillors, cares enough about our health outcomes to do whatever is in your power to push Ontario's ECP to take action. Please adopt the motion which lays out a clear and doable pathway to investigating the composition of this dangerous pollution.

Without this critical information our neighbours will continue to be harmed.

Thank you,

Miriam Sager
Ward 1