

Wendy Page

From: Beau Erickson <darmstad@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:37 PM
To: Wendy Page
Cc: brianh@nslcity.gov; Alisa VanLangeveld; Brian Horrocks
Subject: Written Public Comment Submission – Foxboro City Council Meeting (Sept 15, 2026)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from darmstad@live.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Recorder,

Please accept this written statement into the official permanent public record and minutes for the City Council meeting held on September 15, 2026, at the Foxboro North Clubhouse.

My name is Beau a Erickson and I am a resident here in Foxboro. I am writing to submit my concerns regarding the frequent morning chemical and sulfur odors that blanket our neighborhood. Because Foxboro sits flat on the valley basin floor, it acts as a geographic bowl that traps invisible gaseous emissions from our surrounding industrial neighbors, specifically the Big West Oil, HF Sinclair, Silver Eagle, Marathon, and Chevron refineries alongside the South Davis Sewer District plant, right where our children live, learn, and play.

This is more than an environmental nuisance, it's a documented threat to the long-term biological, neurological, and educational health of our community. Multiple lines of medical and academic research demonstrate that our neighborhood's high-density exposure carries severe systemic risks:

- **Carcinogenic and Respiratory Risk:** According to U.S. EPA Toxic Release Inventory data, the local petroleum facilities surrounding our neighborhood release hundreds of thousands of pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like benzene annually. Benzene is a known human carcinogen linked directly to elevated lifetime leukemia and cancer risks. Furthermore, Utah Department of Health data shows that roughly 10% of children in our immediate industrial corridor develop active asthma, and University of Utah tracking data confirms that proximity to the Farmington Bay flats is a direct predictor of pediatric Emergency Room visits for asthma.
- **Cognitive and Neurodevelopmental Harm:** Peer-reviewed research supported by the National Institutes of Health demonstrates that chronic exposure to industrial combustion byproducts—specifically polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emitted by refineries—is directly neurotoxic to developing brains. Children exposed to these baseline ambient gases exhibit higher rates of developmental delays, reduced white matter surface area in the brain, and elevated risks for attention-deficit and cognitive disorders.
- **Lower Educational Outcomes:** Landmark environmental justice studies from the University of Utah show a direct statistical link between school-zone industrial air pollution and lower academic performance. Trapped industrial gases cause chronic low-level neuro-inflammation and higher school absenteeism due to illness. This directly manifests as lower standardized test scores and reduced educational proficiency outcomes for students attending schools along the valley floor compared to those on the cleaner mountain benches.

Our community currently faces a data blind spot. The city's PurpleAir monitors only count physical dust particles. They cannot see the invisible, toxic chemical gases that make up over 90% of a

refinery's total emission weight. Furthermore, the 14-day passive self-monitoring tubes used by local industry average out and mask the severe morning plumes that hit our families.

Therefore, I formally request that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Formally Coordinate with the Utah DAQ on Site Selection: The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is currently executing its state-approved, multi-million dollar Utah Dust Observation and Research Network (UDORN) regional expansion. Because the exact neighborhood sites for North Salt Lake are currently being finalized, I ask that the City Council formally petition the DAQ to place an upcoming tracking station directly on the flats in Foxboro, rather than up on the highway or mountain benches.

2. Advocate for Gaseous (TVOC) Tracking Extensions: Please request that the state equip this upcoming local station with real-time TVOC or sulfur gas sensors, rather than just standard dust lasers. The Utah DEQ recently utilized an EPA grant to deploy mobile VOC monitoring stations specifically to track shifting industrial refinery plumes along the Northern Wasatch Front corridor, proving the precedent exists.

3. Allocate a Portion of the Available Project Funds for Neighborhood Gaseous Monitoring: Following Alisa's announcement tonight that the city has project funding available and is looking for local suggestions, I formally propose that North Salt Lake allocate a portion of these funds to purchase a localized network of real-time gaseous/TVOC air tracking sensors for Foxboro. This project would instantly eliminate our neighborhood's data blind spot and allow the city to independently verify industrial plumes without relying solely on industry self-reporting.

Our children's developing brains and lungs require proactive city leadership and preventative action. I look forward to receiving a status update on how the city intends to coordinate with the Utah DAQ and evaluate this project proposal.

Best regards,

Beau Erickson

Foxboro Resident

801-879-2913