



Dealing with Common Neighbourhood Problems & Maintaining Your Quality of Life

Traffic, Parking, Loitering, Suspicious Activity, Dogs, Noise, Litter, Graffiti, Walkways & Drugs

The quality of life in our communities is most often affected by “minor” things and is often taken for granted. Yet experience has shown that minor problems, left unaddressed, can quickly escalate to the point where our quality of life suffers and the well-being of our community is put at risk.

It is in everyone’s interest to identify and deal with neighbourhood problems early before they have the chance to become much bigger problems. This fact sheet will give advice on dealing with common neighbourhood problems and maintaining your quality of life.

COMMON NEIGHBOURHOOD PROBLEMS

• Traffic

“I would like to know how I can personally stop the speeders on my street. I have small children that play on my front lawn & I’m very worried about these speeders.”

Peel Regional Police
1999 Survey of Attitudes & Opinions

Traffic related issues are frequently cited by residents as a top five concern in a survey of attitudes and opinions. These concerns are particularly acute when they affect the streets in which we live. To address a traffic problem in your community, contact your local Peel Regional Police Community Station or Police Division. For more information on the location that’s closest to you phone 905-453-3311, visit our web-site or ask for the

Accessing Police and Community Resources fact sheet.

For random traffic incidents involving minor infractions, consider using a Road Watch form. Forms are available from your local crime prevention association or over the internet by visiting: www.roadwatch.ca

• Parking

The repetitive nature of parking problems makes them a frequent source of complaint. If you notice a parking problem that affects your quality of life or your community’s well-being contact your local Parking Control. In Mississauga call 905-896-5678. In Brampton call 905-458-3424.

• Loitering

Loitering, by itself, is generally not against the law. If you see a loitering problem, we recommend that you monitor it to make sure that there is no drinking, vandalism, noise, drugs or other illegal activities. If you see loiterers’ engaged in illegal activity be sure to contact Police. Problems associated with loitering can often grow if they are left unchecked.

• Noise

Few things can be more annoying than a noise complaint. Generally speaking, unreasonable noise can happen any time during the day. If you are experiencing an ongoing, nuisance type problem contact your by-law enforcement division at 905-896-5655 in Mississauga or 905-458-3424 in Brampton. If you are experiencing a one time noise occurrence, such as a party or rave, contact Peel Regional Police at 905-453-3311 and ask for Communications.

• Suspicious Activity

Too many times we witness suspicious activity but fail to react properly or in a timely fashion. If you witness suspicious activity or see something that does not make sense, DON’T rationalize it away or fail to react. Note a description and direction of travel, then contact police. Your actions may prevent you or your neighbours from being the victim of crime.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT, PLEASE CONTACT:

PEEL REGIONAL POLICE
Crime Prevention Services
7750 Hurontario Street
Brampton, Ontario
L6V 3W6

Tel. 905-453-2121 ext. 4021
Fax 905-456-6106

You may also want to examine our Internet site at:

www.peelpolice.ca

- **Dogs**

Loose dogs are not only a nuisance but they can present a danger to people and other pets. If you see or are bothered by a loose dog contact Animal Control at the following numbers:

Mississauga	905-896-5858 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
.....	905-615-3000 (4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
Brampton	905-458-5200 (24 hour)

These numbers can also be used to report injured or distressed animals. If an animal presents an immediate danger contact **9-1-1**.

MAINTAINING YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

The maintenance of our neighbourhoods is essential to maintaining our quality of life. Unfortunately, many neighbourhoods tolerate the large-scale accumulation of litter, graffiti and/or the introduction of drugs before a complaint is made or something is done. It is vital that everyone shares the responsibility for maintaining their community and keeping it crime free. An improperly maintained or apathetic neighbourhood sends a strong signal that not enough people care. This can attract the criminal element and result in further and more rapid signs of physical deterioration and generate fear which can negatively impact the desirability of your area and ultimately property values.

- **Litter, Graffiti And Poorly Maintained Properties**

In order to maintain your quality of life and that of your community, it is important that you:

- regularly maintain your property,
- never allow litter or graffiti to accumulate around your property,
- watch for signs of this occurring within your neighbourhood, and
- where this has occurred, take some action to deal with it.

What Can I Do?

For common issues, such as litter and graffiti, try to determine whether the problem has occurred on public or private property.

Public Properties

Where the problem has occurred on public property try to contact the appropriate municipal or regional department. For *parks and walkways that connect to parks*, consider organizing a community clean-up or contact your local city hall and ask for community services. For *walkways that connect streets to other streets* contact city hall and ask for "Works".

Private Properties

For poorly maintained private properties or problems on properties where you are unsure of the ownership, contact your local city hall and ask for property standards. In the city of Mississauga call 905-896-5655. In the city of Brampton call 905-458-3424. For further information on how you can prevent or deal with graffiti ask for the "Graffiti Prevention & Control" fact sheet. For all other problems, contact your local Councillor.

- **Drugs**

While drug problems are more likely to develop in areas which are poorly maintained, lack normal activity and have weak signs of ownership or ownership interests, no neighbourhood is immune from drug dealing problems. If you have noticed what you suspect may be a drug dealing problem, such as a steady stream of short term visitors to a residence, or increased traffic and brief encounters at places like bus stops, around public parks or in the street, it is important that you take some action **immediately** before the problem has a chance to get worse and other crimes, such as residential break-ins, begin to happen in your neighbourhood.

What Should You Do?

It is vital that you call police and let them know of your observations. Many times police are only called when the problem becomes intolerable or is spinning out of control. Don't let this happen to your community. Call Police as soon as you notice a problem. Let them know:

- the nature of your observations,
- the location,
- the time that this is happening — be as specific as you can and limit the times to your actual observations (don't exaggerate the problem)
- the descriptions of the vehicles involved (including licence plates),
- a description of the people most involved, and
- whether you believe the environment is contributing to the problem.

Who Should You Call?

- If you know a crime is happening call 9-1-1.
- If you see suspicious activity call 905-453-3311 and ask for Communications.
- If you wish to report what you suspect is a drug dealing problem in your neighbourhood, call 905-453-3311 and ask for the Neighbourhood Policing Unit. You can also call or attend your local Community Station or call the Morality Bureau.
- If you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 905-455-8477.
- Remember be as specific as you can.