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Dear Toronto City Council Clerk,

To the City Clerk: Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 29, 2026 City Council meeting on item 2026.MM43.75, Ensuring Due Diligence on Data Centres in Scarborough Southwest - by Councillor Parthi Kandavel, seconded by Councillor Dianne Saxe. I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

My Comments:

I am writing as a Toronto resident to demand that Toronto City Council prioritize public health, quality of life, and environmental protection over fast-tracked developer profits when evaluating industrial data centre proposals across our city.

Data centres generate a unique and severe form of industrial pollution: persistent, 24/7 low-frequency noise.

Industrial chillers, rooftop air handlers, and cooling fans produce a continuous hum that penetrates standard residential windows, walls, and traditional sound fences. Medical and environmental studies show that chronic exposure to this continuous low-frequency noise triggers elevated stress responses, sleep disruption, migraines, anxiety, cognitive impairment, and long-term cardiovascular risks. It also disrupts local wildlife and urban ecosystems.

Despite these serious impacts, **applications like the proposed 56-megawatt facility at 3650 Danforth Avenue are moving forward while Toronto's city-wide data-centre policy framework remains unfinished.** Approving energy-intensive server farms next to residential homes without stringent noise ordinances puts public health across all Toronto neighbourhoods at risk.

Toronto must lead the way by establishing **gold-standard, health-focused noise legislation before approving any data centre developments.**

I urge City Council to adopt a city-wide "Answers Before Approvals" strategy and enact the following noise protections:

1. **Pause Final Approvals City-Wide:** Hold all pending and current data centre applications until Toronto's official data-centre framework is fully enacted with well-defined, enforceable noise standards.
2. **Mandate Independent Peer-Reviewed Noise Studies:** Require independent, third-party acoustic peer reviews for every application—paid for by the applicant, but commissioned directly by the City.
3. **Include Low-Frequency & Emergency Testing Scenarios:** Ensure noise assessments evaluate low-frequency tone profiles (which decibel meters often miss), continuous 24/7 baseline operations, and worst-case emergency backup generator cut-over scenarios.
4. **Enforce Strict Distance Buffers & Enclosures:** Require mandatory effective noise mitigation measures such as noise barriers in residential zones, mandatory soundproof enclosures for all exterior cooling equipment, and continuous, publicly accessible real-time noise monitoring.
5. **Guarantee Public Transparency & Consultation:** Notify local councillors and community members immediately upon receipt of any data centre application, offering clear public hearings on noise impacts before any technical reviews are finalized.

Residents deserve quiet enjoyment of their homes, restful sleep, and healthy neighbourhoods. Please lead with strong legislation, protect Toronto communities from industrial noise pollution, and insist on Answers Before Approvals.

Signed:

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