

From: *redacted
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Letter to be included in official April 22 Council Agenda Regarding Millar Addition Health and Safety
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:43:06 AM

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Dear Mayor Yu and PG City Council,

I attended the council meeting on April 8th regarding the Mayor's Standing Committee on Safety as a longstanding Millar Addition community member and individual who has been deeply impacted by the encampment on Lower Patricia. I live on Upper Patricia Blvd, across from the horrible fire that occurred on the evening of March 28th. My spouse was out of town when our home, occupied by 5 children, my dog and myself was encircled with thick, black, toxic smoke that evening in a matter of minutes. I believe I was first on the scene in our neighborhood to call 911 and urgently request the fire department attend while embers and sparks floated in the southerly blowing wind onto the lawn, cedar trees and roof of my home. The children inside reported that sparks and embers were hitting the windows while they watched. I could hear popping and what sounded like explosions. I knew what type of debris was likely burning in the fire on Lower Patricia Boulevard and the risk that the fire could spread given the density of materials below the hillside. We evacuated our home that night with the air monitor levels hitting just shy of 900ppm. No human should be subjected to those air quality values and the carcinogenic toxins from a fire like that. I evacuated the kids, and dog, left my home, picked up a neighbour who is a senior and went to a different part of town, only hoping that the fire department would ensure my home didn't ignite with the sparks and embers. I watched the air monitor the next hour and had reports from a neighbour when the fire was out and we could return home. It was almost 10:45 at night. If the fire that evening had spread further east where there is much denser, more flammable debris and less of a fire break, the outcome would have been even worse. If that fire had occurred even a month later with less moisture in the ground, the outcome would have been dire. If the fire had occurred later at night when we were all asleep, unaware and unable to call the fire department, the outcome could have been deadly. The very real danger of catastrophic fire from the encampment cannot be ignored ANY longer.

This was a horrible experience I wish I could say I never will have again. But I know that is not the case. I have lost count of how many structure fires we have observed, called in, filmed, watched and sought safety from in the last two and a half years that have occurred in the encampment on Lower Patricia Boulevard and impacted our health. That does not count the daily burning from the encampment that peaks in the very wee hours of the morning and smothers us in our home. Our household has had a PURPLE AIR monitor since 2015, installed by UNBC and Dr. Peter Jackson as part of his air quality research. We have regularly monitored our communities air quality for the past nine years as we have family members with respiratory issues. Even in our worst fire seasons in the north, we would not see values on our air monitor that reached what is read many days coming out of the encampment. When investigated, the source is often coming from garbage and debris fires, more often with the smell of plastic or other chemicals and green wood, with an enormous amount of smoke. With the predominant winds out of the north, or on a stagnant air day, this toxic smoke will hover over the Millar Addition, sky rocketing the air monitor values at our home through the roof. These values are not seen at the other monitoring stations around the city and stand out at my home. We know TOO MUCH the impacts of air quality on our health and the chronic diseases they cause with even short term exposures. We have spoke up when industry was the issue and we must speak up now. Countless screen shots are available on our community's PURPLE AIR monitor at unacceptable, unhealthy levels, that can be correlated easily

with fire events in the Lower Patricia encampment with pictures. It is easy to cross reference 911 or bylaw calls and complaints with this data. If the city or councillors, the province or other stakeholders are asking for more data, this is stalling. The data is present, accessible, easy to interpret and impossible to ignore.

We can all appreciate the tense anticipation of the coming fire season given the drought conditions everywhere in BC, particularly in the Prince George area. The frequency of fire events and the obvious risk posed by the materials collected adjacent to the hillside of Lower Patricia Boulevard must become a primary safety priority for the City of Prince George and the Province. This is a PREVENTABLE fire event and needs IMMEDIATE ACTION.

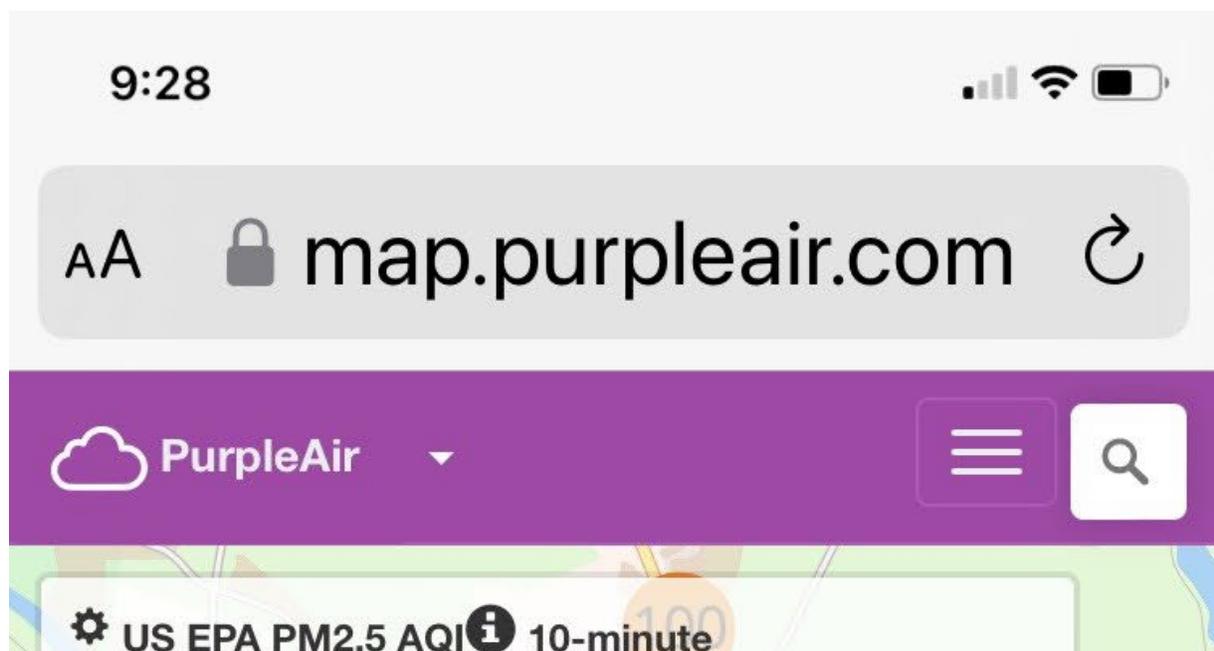
Sadly, not 12 hours after the April 8th City Council meeting, we woke at 5:40am with the smell of fire smoke filling our home, once again losing sleep. Please see the attached shot. Every other monitor in PG enjoyed the fresh scent of moist spring air (Average 4 ppm). Our monitor was at 109 ppm. 24 hours after the council meeting, our son raced home on his bike with a friend to report another structure fire one block south of my home, in the trees of the hillside, out of the designated encampment area. Just one block south of the horrible March 28th fire. Fire crews were called... AGAIN. What will tomorrow bring??

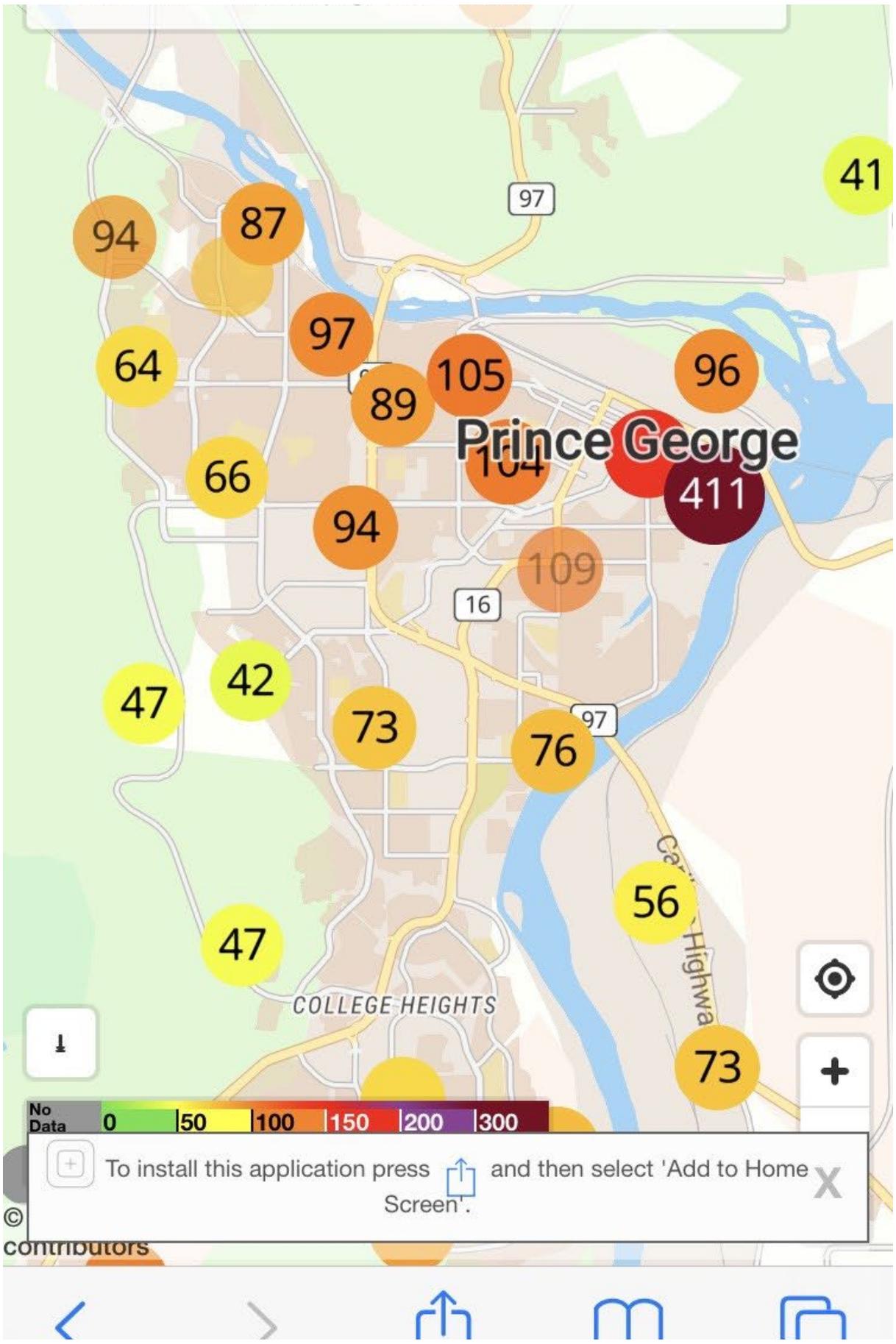
Please consider the health and safety of Millar Addition residents, families and children in our community.

Respectfully submitted

Kerrie Roberts

These attached photos are a SMALL collection of data we have collected that can be correlated to events in the recent weeks. There are many more. Purple Air provides Continuous, 24/7 data. Data has been collected and is available for Upper Patricia Boulevard monitor dating back to 2015 and easily compared to the rest of the city and region.





7:56

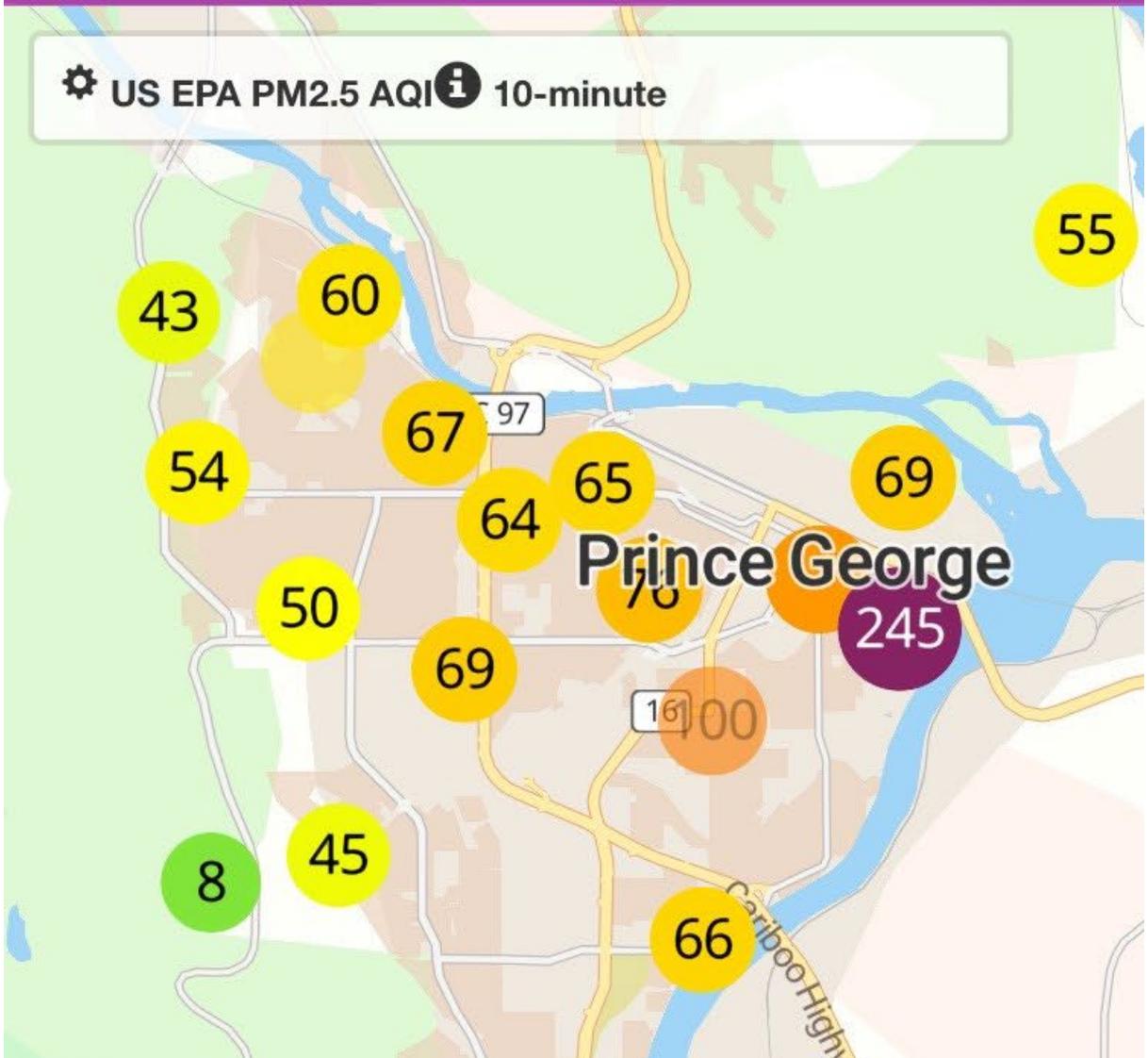


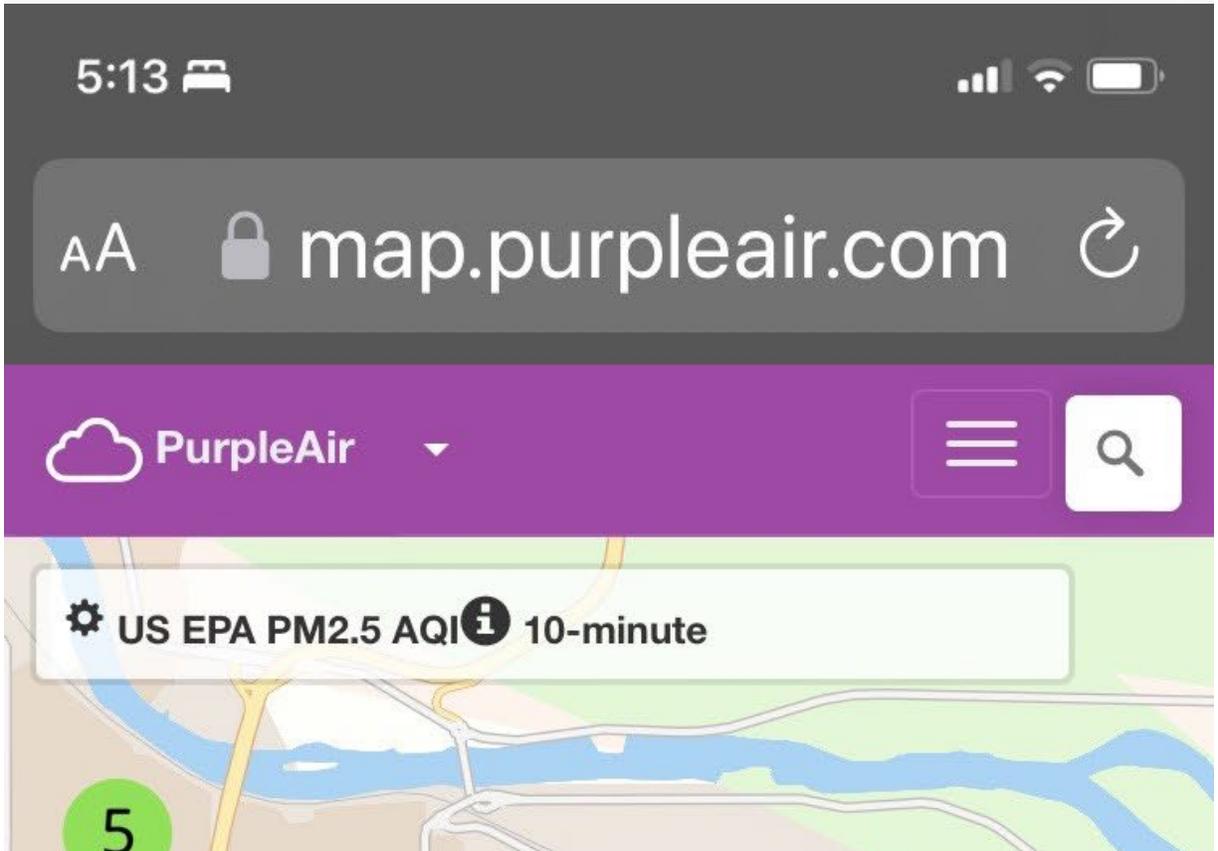
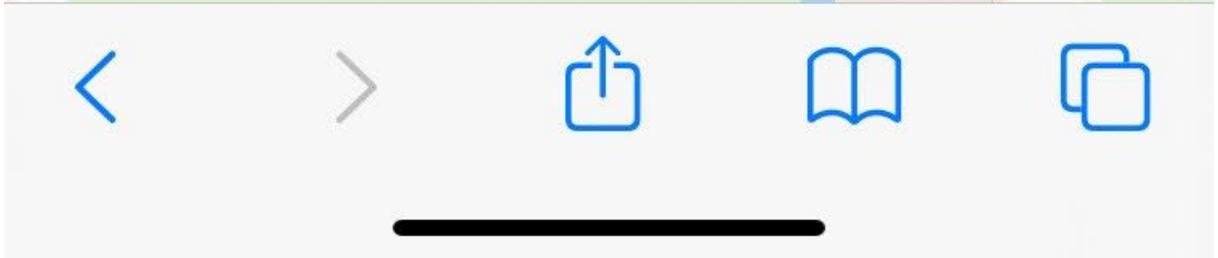
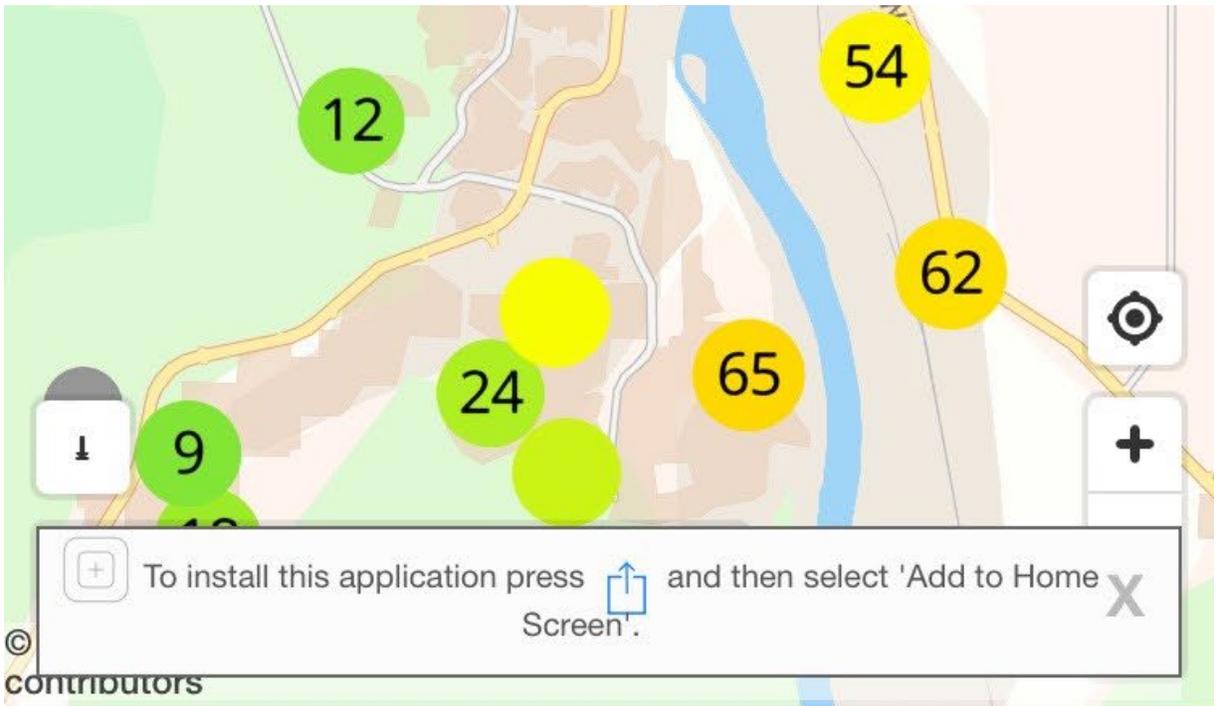
AA map.purpleair.com

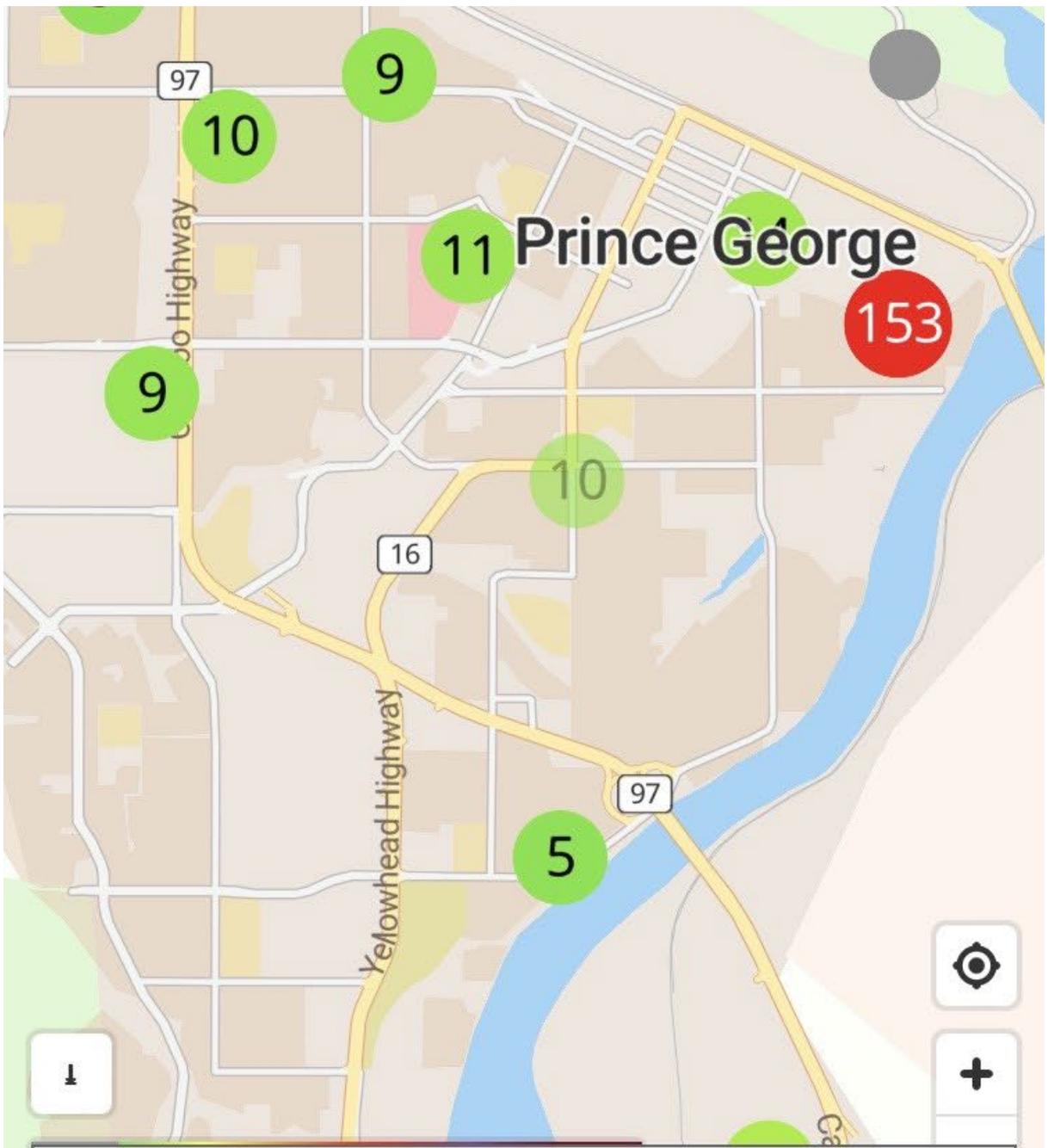
PurpleAir



US EPA PM2.5 AQI 10-minute

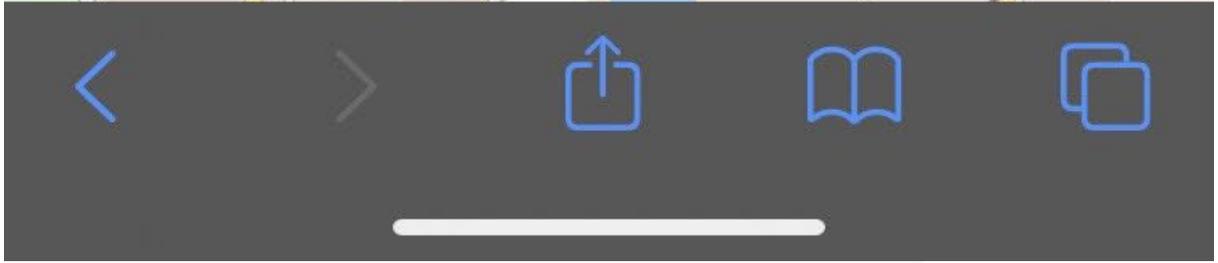






 To install this application press  and then select 'Add to Home Screen'. 

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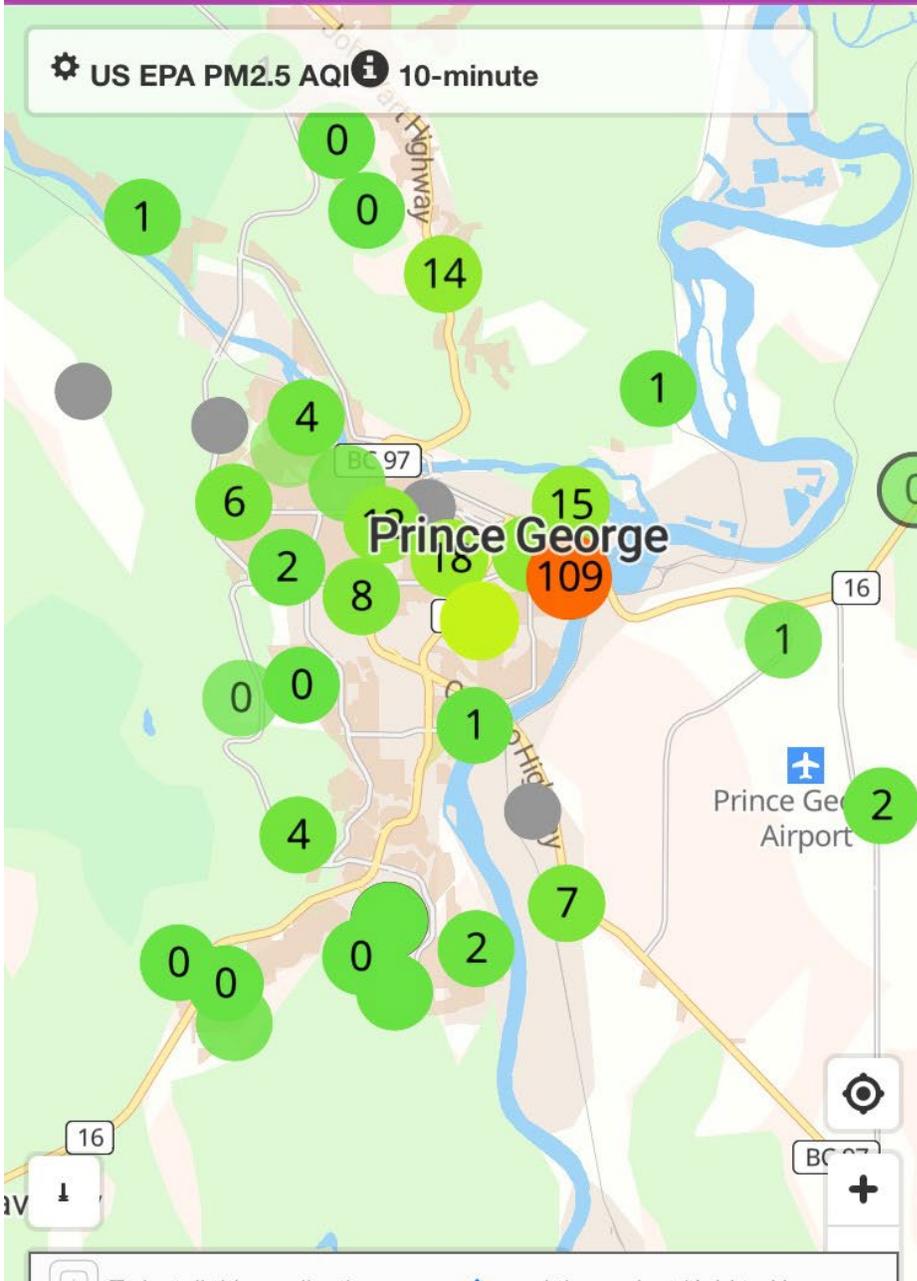


AA map.purpleair.com

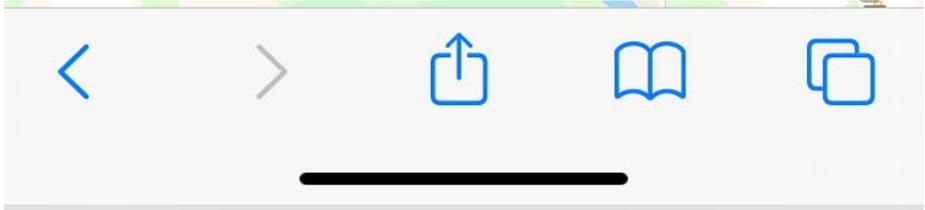
PurpleAir



US EPA PM2.5 AQI 10-minute



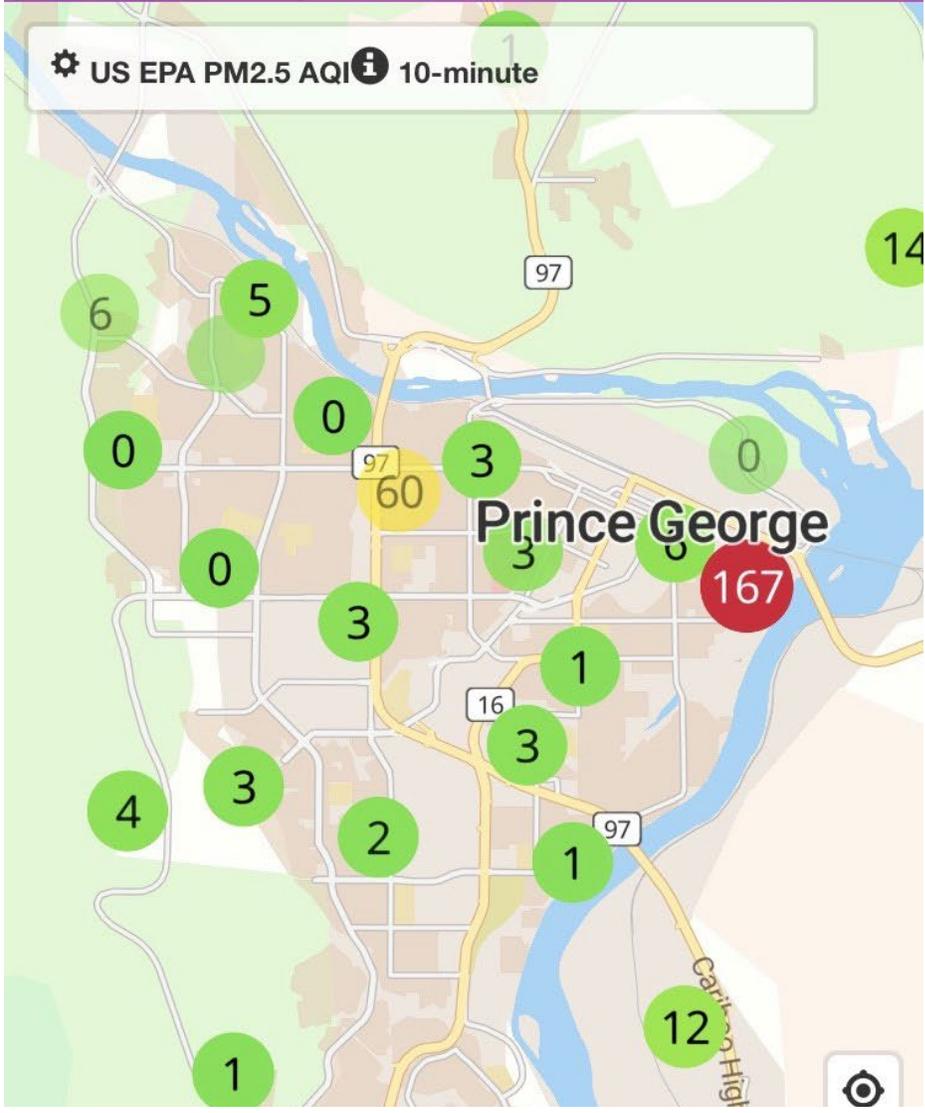
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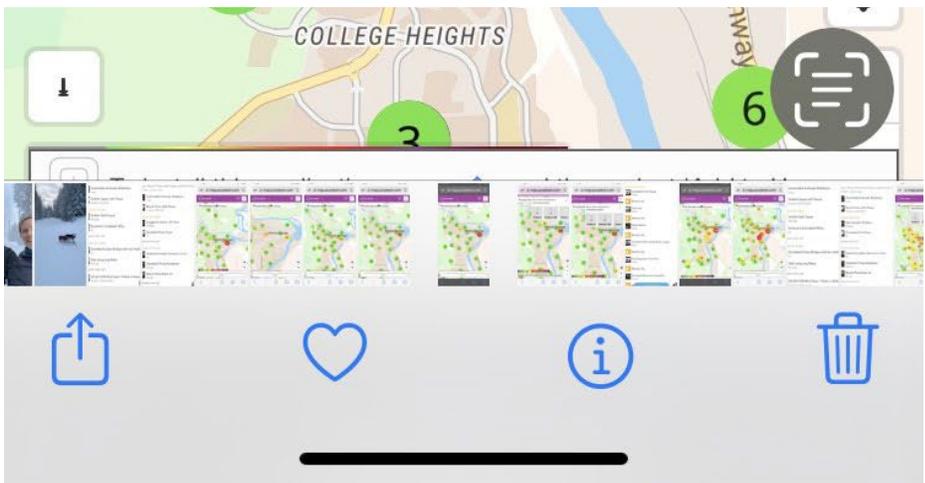


11:09 Signal, Wi-Fi, Battery

January 11 2:57 AM Edit 

 PurpleAir  

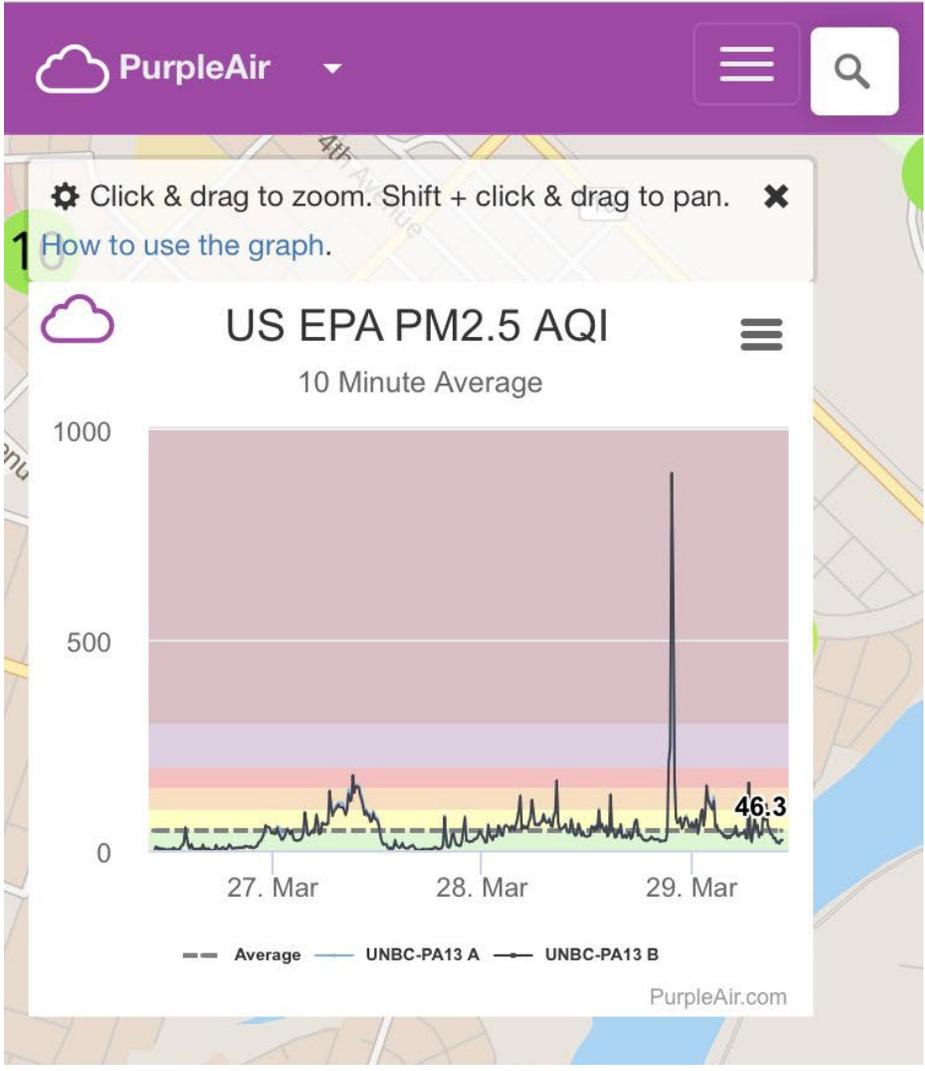


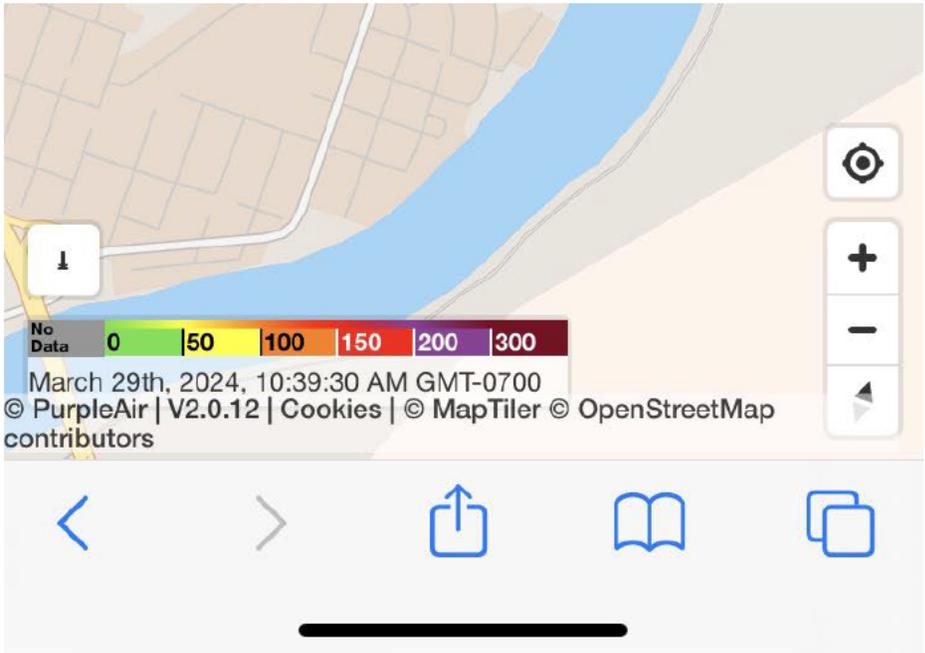


10:39



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