



Councillor Augimeri booed at meeting

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Councillor Maria Augimeri was met with boos last night at a community meeting held to provide an update on Sunday's propane blast.

Residents demand apology for 'shut up' remark in aftermath of propane blast

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Staff Reporter

Embattled city councillor Maria Augimeri faced angry residents last night at a meeting to address concerns about Sunday's propane explosion.

Though about 800 residents at a North York banquet hall initially greeted her with mostly applause – and a few boos – the meeting later turned nasty with residents criticizing her for telling another resident Wednesday to "shut up."

Several demanded that she apologize for the remarks, but she did not immediately do so. But she later told the *Star* she had apologized to the "community at large."

The meeting was attended by several city officials including acting city manager Joseph Pennachetti, Toronto fire chief Bill Stewart and city councillors Shelley Carroll and Michael Thompson. Although several residents expressed their gratitude to firefighters and first

responders, many expressed frustration that provincial officials, including Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, have been missing in action since the explosion.

Victor Tavares, who was evacuated after the explosion, demanded to know why there were no provincial officials at the meeting last night. "They were invited," Augimeri replied.

Augimeri tried to soothe the audience by telling them "We are a community of very strong families and together we will get through this." Augimeri said she had walked through the community and believed the "hand of God" had been with the residents.

City officials again assured residents that the levels of asbestos exposure created by the explosion were low and not hazardous.

Pennachetti said the province has ordered Sunrise to pay for the cleanup of asbestos and other debris. But some asked what would happen if they can't foot the bill. In an interview last night, Councillor Carroll said the city will need to sit down with the company and Ministry of the Environment to determine what to do if Sunrise can't pay.

Pennachetti said the Technical Standards and Safety Authority was responsible for regulating the propane operation. But no officials were in attendance last night.