



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOON, April 6, 2021

Contact: Howard Rieger,
hmrieger@gmail.com, 412-303-4942

New Resident-Led Town Hall Launches Campaign to Fight Air Pollution in SWPA

Pittsburgh, Pa. – SWPA residents are taking the fight for clean air to the next level with a Resident-Led Town Hall TODAY, demanding that state and local leaders take decisive action to address the region’s harmful air quality.

The Resident-Led Town Hall follows yet another holiday sequence of poor air quality days, EPA #CodeOrange and #CodeRed, that continues to put residents in our region at serious health risk. Since the start of spring on March 21, 2021, residents in the region have endured breathing air registered in the top-10 worst regions (often #1 or #2 Worst) on at least 8 days, with ensuing exceedances of hydrogen sulfide standards.

The diverse citizen coalition includes residents from Clairton, Braddock, Uptown, Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Bellevue, Northside, Franklin Park and Sewickley. Residents concerned about future emissions from the Shell Petrochemical Plant will also be represented. Speakers will share their personal stories of what it is like to live with the constant assault of polluted air and the impact it has taken on loved ones and their communities.

“Public health in the region and Uptown Pittsburgh has been proven to be adversely affected by this pollution, evidenced by higher levels of asthma, lung cancer and other illnesses known to be caused by air pollution,” says Marlene Williams of Uptown Partners.

“If leadership isn’t coming from the top, then it must come from us,” says Howard Rieger, a lead organizer of the Resident-Led Town Hall. “We must carry forward this simple message: the status quo that allows unhealthy and toxic air in our region is no longer acceptable.”

This will be the first of many actions. The more than 250 people who registered to attend will also learn more about the actions being planned for the future and how Allegheny County residents, acting together, can promote the change we need to safeguard our health and the health of our children.

MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

For a Zoom link, register here: bit.ly/clean-air-town-hall

Or Watch the livestream on the [Facebook page of North Braddock Residents for our Future](#)

Speakers/ Presenters

Howard Rieger, Squirrel Hill resident, East End Neighbors

Edith Abeyta, Braddock resident, North Braddock Residents for our Future

“Communities on Fire in SWPA,” Video by **Mark Dixon**, Blue Lens, filmmaker and activist

Marlene Williams, Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh

Christine Graziano, Shadyside, Plant Five for Life

Cheryl Hurt, Clairton Resident, daycare owner

Cheryl Hoover, Franklin Park resident, Protect Franklin Park

Barbara Talerico, Northside, Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3)

Thaddeus Popovich, former Franklin Park resident, Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)

Howard Rieger Closing