
From: Donald Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:56 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: NO to Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder permit application
Attachments: GWHS LSC Resolution.pdf

[Warning: External email]

Good morning.

I have lived at [REDACTED] here in Chicago for the past 17 years. My home is less than a mile from the proposed metal shredder facility that Southside Recycling is applying to operate. I want to voice my opposition to the permit, and encourage the City of Chicago to please vote against it in order to protect the health of the community.

I am a Social Science teacher at Washington H.S., which is located less than HALF a mile from the proposed facility. I worry about the detrimental effects on my students due to the increased level of particulate matter that would be released into the air, not to mention increased diesel truck traffic and noise. The 10th Ward already has elevated cases of respiratory illnesses and a history of allowing polluting industries into the neighborhood. For this reason I worked with other members of Washington H.S.' Local School Council to pass the attached resolution demonstrating our school community's opposition to Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder permit application.

With the majority of the student body and community as Latinx, the decision by RMG to relocate from Lincoln Park to the East Side is a stark example of environmental racism as well. Approving the permit would be an injustice perpetuated by the City of Chicago against black and brown communities who are already adversely impacted by Covid-19.

So I strongly urge you to consider the attached resolution and my desire to protect the health of the community in ruling on Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder permit application. Our neighborhood of the 10th Ward NEEDS you to vote NO!

Sincerely,
Donald Z. Davis, NBCT
George Washington H.S.
Social Science Teacher and LSC Teacher Rep.
[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois, 60617
[REDACTED]



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George Washington H.S. Local School Council
Resolution in Opposition to Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder

Sponsored by Teacher Reps Donald Davis and Chuck Stark

WHEREAS, Southside Recycling intends to operate a Metal Shredder facility on 116th Street and Burley Avenue, AND

WHEREAS, the parent company of this facility, General Iron or RMG, has been known to have negative environmental impacts with its existing industrial operations, including explosions, fires, excessive noise, and releasing of particulate matter into the air, AND

WHEREAS, the East Side community and 10th Ward already has numerous industrial factories and environmental polluters already in operation, AND

WHEREAS, the legacy of pollution and inadequate zoning laws that prioritize industry profits over public health contribute to the East Side and 10th Ward experiencing elevated levels of heart disease, COPD, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, as well as being a medically underserved community, AND

WHEREAS, the proposed Metal Shredder would increase diesel polluting truck traffic and noise on Avenue O, AND

WHEREAS, the proposed Metal Shredder will be permitted to emit up to 16 additional tons of Particulate Matter (PM) into the air per year, AND

WHEREAS, the prevailing winds in East Side are from southwest to northeast, thus blowing much of that PM towards George Washington High School, less than half a mile from the proposed facility, AND

WHEREAS, there are no guarantees that 10th Ward residents will be employed at the new facility, AND

WHEREAS, the facility is being relocated from predominantly white Lincoln Park to a majority Latinx neighborhood--representing a clear example of environmental racism, AND

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago needs to invest in green manufacturing for the 10th Ward and equitable school facilities for George Washington High School that are comparable to those of selective enrollment schools and more affluent suburbs, AND

WHEREAS, many non-profit community organizations and individuals such as United Neighbors of the 10th Ward, the Southeast Side Coalition to Ban Petcoke, Bridges/Puentes, the Southeast Youth Alliance, the Southeast Environmental Task Force, and local clergy stand in solidarity to prevent operation of this facility,

THEN THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the George Washington High School Local School Council opposes operation of Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder on 116th and Burley, and encourages the City of Chicago to deny the final permit for the facility, AND

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Washington High Local School Council encourages ALL students, parents, teachers, staff members, and residents of the 10th Ward to e-mail the City of Chicago to encourage denial of the permit: envcomments@cityofchicago.org .

Once approved a copy of this resolution will be sent to Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Dr. Allison Arwady, Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski-Garza and all City Council members, and local news media.

Approved by the GWHS LSC on January 11, 2021.



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