



LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION
LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL DE LA VILLITA

PRESS RELEASE

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WHAT: *Press Conference: We are calling on the Mayor of Chicago as well as the Department of Planning and Development, and asking that the process for the Little Village Industrial Corridor Modernization Process continue, and that it prioritizes the environmental health of Little Village.*

WHEN: *Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – 10am*

WHERE: *2nd floor, Chicago City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St. Chicago, IL 60602*

WHO: Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE), Warehouse Workers for Justice, Natural Resource and Defense Council (NRDC), Union Of Concerned Scientists, Southeast Side Coalition To Ban Petcoke (SSCBP),

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More industry in Little Village and No Plan in Sight

CHICAGO, IL — Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – We are at the one year mark of the release of the Little Village Industrial Corridor Modernization Plan (LVICMP), which was produced by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD). The LVICMP was the result of a 9-month process, during which LVEJO advocated for a significant increase in environmental health protections for the community, as well as much stricter regulations and enforcement on current industries in the area. However, the DPD released a plan that prioritized infrastructure for transportation (Trucking, Distribution, Logistics), and that did not prioritize the environmental health of the neighborhood.

After many organizations and community members submitted public comments regarding their displeasure with the plan, the process was halted. We're at the one year anniversary of the halting of this process, and we still do not have clarity from the DPD on whether or not the process will continue. Meanwhile, new industrial developments continue to be approved in the neighborhood with minimal regulations. Little Village already has the 2nd worst air quality in the state, and is in desperate need of a modernization plan that effectively regulates industry, and prioritizes the environmental health of the community. The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) have told Little Village residents to close their windows and shut their doors, a ridiculous response, the fact is that CDPH is not given sufficient budget to operate, but other

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large scale developments like Lincoln Yards and Exchange 55 are giving taxpayers money and handout in hopes of bringing opportunities to the City of Chicago.

We demand:

- **Commitment from the Mayor's Office and DPD to restart the Little Village Industrial Corridor Modernization Process.** Our city needs to make sure current industries in our neighborhood are brought to standards and move towards a just transition.
- **The City needs to install permanent air monitors in the cumulative burden of environmental exposures neighborhoods.** Residents have the right to learn about the air quality around them;
- **The Chicago Department of Public Health needs to increase research efforts to monitor the environmental health of its communities.** Their lack of air pollution enforcement is due to insufficient data and inadequate protocols for how to prioritize the highest-risk facilities for inspection.
- **Cook County Assessor's Office needs to rescind the \$19.7 Million dollar tax break Hilco** received back in Jan. of 2019. No more corporate handout to polluters!
- **Commitment from Chicago's Department of Transportation to conduct comprehensive traffic studies every 5 years.** Since the creation of Chicago's Industrial Corridor, 25 years ago, the Little Village community continues to be burdened by the exponential growth of heavy, dirty, diesel truck traffic. Before approving industrial projects in our neighborhood we need to understand if we even have the infrastructure in place for additional traffic volume.

Chicago communities have been under siege when it comes to having a voice in the planning of our city and use of city resources. The city's planning for resilience to climate change is not only in the planning and protection of our lakefront trails, but also in our industrial corridors. The city has housed industries for over a century with minimal inspections and hardly any citations. Residents across our city have been outspoken about the amount of pollution that is being emitted and some of the actions have been to relocate industries from the north side to the southwest / southeast sides. The health impacts of poor air quality are burdensome to individuals, families, and healthcare systems. Our neighborhoods are ready to transition to renewable energy where we want equitable development and eager to participate. Chicago communities are ready for a just transition away from all fossil fuels that prioritizes environmental justice, public health, community self-determination, high quality jobs and ownership opportunities for local residents.

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