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From: **Kt Andresky** <ktandresky@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 9, 2023 at 11:54 AM

Subject: Official Letter Asking the City of Detroit to Delay the Demolition of the Incinerator Stack

To: Joshua Roberson <joshua.roberson@detroitmi.gov>, <tidquist.eric@epa.gov>, <Keith.butlet@detroitmi.gov>, Raymond Simpson <Simpsonra@detroitmi.gov>, Jacqueline Ramsey <jramsey@senate.michigan.gov>, Stephanie Chang <schang@senate.michigan.gov>, <rashida@mail.house.gov>, Goddeeris, Andrew <Andrew.Goddeeris@mail.house.gov>, Trent Wolf <twolf@house.mi.gov>, Rep. Abraham Aiyash (District 4) <abrahamaiyash@house.mi.gov>, Abraham Aiyash <AAiyash@house.mi.gov>, <shri.thanendar@mail.house.gov>, EFWCA Board <efwca-board@googlegroups.com>

June 9, 2023

Dear Josh Roberson and other City and State Officials,

This is an official letter from the East Ferry Warren Community Association Board asking the City of Detroit to delay the demolition of the incinerator stack on Sunday June 11, 2023. First, by moving this demolition to a later date, the City can explore deconstructing the stack as a cleaner option, instead of implosion. Additionally, residents living near the facility have not been notified sufficiently or told how to protect their health if something does go wrong during the demolition. And lastly, according to the EPA, the current air quality for all of Detroit is at “unhealthy levels” and additional particulate matter from a demolition of this scale must be considered an increased hazard to our health.

An incinerator stack such as this should be deconstructed piece by piece to mitigate harmful dust and particulate matter from harming nearby Detroit Public Works employees, Waste Haulers, and communities that bear the continued health issues from this incinerator’s operations of 33 years. Delaying this demolition will give city departments more time to consider deconstruction as an option in order to keep the health of nearby workers and residents a priority.

With additional time, the City can send out certified mailed notifications to residents living on all sides of the facility as well as all schools, churches, and businesses. At this time, there has not been enough care demonstrated to notify and educate the communities surrounding the incinerator on how to best protect our health in case this demolition does not go as planned. Official notices should be sent out through the mail with at least two week’s notice and have either the company’s logos and letterhead on it or the City’s logos and letterhead so that community members can confirm where this information is coming from.

After our community members canvassed the 5 x 8 block residential area closest to the incinerator on Tuesday, June 6, no one in this area the canvassers spoke with said they had received an official notification from the city. Canvassers also did not see any overlapping evidence of this information left in

doors of homes. According to our canvassers, just two residents heard about the demolition in the news and one resident was notified by community leaders. This evidence suggests that the efforts made by City officials to reach and inform residents within a mile radius of the planned demolition have been insufficient and with more time, the City, along with the continued support of community leaders, may better inform the residents who stand to be impacted the most by the demolition.

Furthermore, residents living near the facility have not been informed sufficiently on how to protect their health if something does go wrong. We only have to look to the Little Village community in Chicago to remember that, sadly, demolitions do not always go as planned. The current press release provided from the City only goes so far as to recommend closing all windows, doors, and openings to homes/buildings and to stay indoors at the time of the demolition. There are so many more precautionary measures that we can take that are not listed by the City, including: turning off HVAC, heaters, fans, and oven hoods; covering vents and other openings; using moist towels on window sills and doors that have gaps; wear an N95 mask when outdoors on the day of the demolition; use air filters if you have them; etc. The health and safety of the residents and workers near the demolition is a top priority and the limited precautions suggested by the City has not adequately prepared residents for how best to protect themselves on the day of the demolition. Given more time, a more comprehensive list of precautionary measures can be created and shared to the residents and workers nearest to the demolition.

Lastly, the City and health departments should take into consideration the cumulative health impacts of imploding the stack within days of record high air pollution from Canadian forest fires. Residents throughout Detroit are experiencing inflammation in their lungs from the air. Adding particulate matter from an incinerator stack demolition seems very hazardous to those living nearby, especially since we have not had any rain for over a month. This can add to the public health crisis we are currently in. Overburdening the Detroit community with terrible pollution is not prioritizing public health and with record setting poor air quality leading up to the demolition, a postponed date will lessen the concern of compounding and cumulative health impacts of poor air quality .

We hope you delay the demolition to get correct communications out to our communities, provide details of the permit and decisions on best practices, and have better overall air quality during the time of demolition.

Sincerely,

East Ferry Warren Community Association Board

Melissa Cooper Sargent, President

Austin Farrow, Vice President

Thomas Pemberton, Meeting Facilitator

KT Morelli, Secretary

Shanee Dennis, Member at Large

Jack VanDyke, Member at Large

Robbie Moore, Member at Large