

## **Air Quality**

April 14, 2021

11:00am-12:00pm

Zoom



**CAMDEN  
COLLABORATIVE  
INITIATIVE**

## **NOTES**

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

- 14 attendees; 8 Camden residents/businesses

### **II. Air Quality**

#### **a. Current Issues**

- Special GP Gypsum
  1. DEP virtual public hearing on April 20, 2021:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/publicnotices.htm>
- EMR Fire Updates
  1. DEP trying to get more information from the county
  2. Submitting a letter to the CDC requesting info about Waterfront South for the ATSDR program
    - a. ATSDR program: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
    - b. DEP to follow up with Ben as advocate
- Covanta Update
  1. First round of procurement: one bidder, not ideal
  2. Currently have a few good bids (one which was solicited)
    - a. Solicited another bidder they work with more often
  3. Now restandardizing bid package and asking them to restandardize
  4. Sending air monitoring protocol to DEP for feedback; it has been remodelled with the new DEP EJ framework in mind
    - a. Will share back out in a public meeting (post mid-May)

#### **b. NJDEP Air/Odor Complaint Report**

- Since Feb 1: 15 air pollution complaints called into (11 odor, 2 smoke, 2 particulate)
  1. High rate of burnt plastic odor complaints potentially as a result of the EMR fire not being totally extinguished
  2. Complaints mostly from Waterfront South
- In follow up, either the Camden County Health Department or DEP conducted field investigations; they have not been able to confirm violations based on those investigations
  1. Do not have statistics for how quickly field investigations follow complaints; it depends on when the complaint comes in and the severity and context of the complaint
- Monitoring:
  1. DEP proactively investigates in areas with high complaints (Waterfront South)

- 2. Regulations would not support issuing violation notices based on odor monitors
- 3. There is a particulate and ambient air monitor on Spruce Street
  - a. Having the mayor or an assemblyperson write a letter requesting air monitor couldn't hurt
- School district can collaborate with DEP on air monitors for 'Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'
- c. Key Next Steps
  - Collaboration on greater air monitoring throughout the city
  - Submit a letter to the CDC requesting info about Waterfront South for the ATSDR program (Ben and DEP)
  - CCMUA has asked that complaints of suspected CCMUA odors should go directly to Scott Schreiber

### **III. Environmental Justice**

- a. Current Issues
  - NJDEP EJ bill: stakeholder meeting coming in in early May, rulemaking starts in May. Notes from community meetings so far:
    - 1. need to have public input a part of the permitting process
    - 2. No loopholes for big polluters to get around
    - 3. Need representation at these meetings
      - a. Looking for ideas for how to engage the public (law mandates it but does not say how to do it)
    - 4. These powerpoints and other sources posted online
- b. Key Next Steps
  - Look at presentations and provide formal comments

### **IV. Traffic Management**

- a. Current Issues
  - Walter Rand transportation center: will be tied to electrification projects; still a ways away
  - City-wide truck route issues
    - 1. Would be helpful to identify how to get information relevant to this
    - 2. Need to pull in additional people; it should be a neighborhood level discussion
    - 3. Can have city-level council people championing this; maybe D r. Ed Williams, Director of Planning & Development
      - a. Wherever the bus garage for electric buses go: that ward's councilperson might be the right person
- b. Key Next Steps
  - Determine best public figure to champion traffic management issues
  - Identify pertinent information and key stakeholders relevant to truck route issues

### **V. Education/Special Presentations**

- a. Resources/Videos on AirNOW and Air Quality

- Wildfire Smoke and Children's Health
  1. [English](#)
  2. [Spanish](#)
- Knowing where to go to get air quality data (AirNow)
  1. [English](#)
  2. [Spanish](#)
- Understanding the AQI
  1. [English](#)
  2. [Spanish](#)

## **VI. Additional Information/Resources**

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to [camdencollaborative@coopersferry.com](mailto:camdencollaborative@coopersferry.com)