

Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association
P.O. Box 4457
Washington, DC 20017

January 12, 2015

Stephen S. Ours
Chief, Permitting Branch, DDOE
1200 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. Ours:

I write on behalf of the Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association (BNCA) to strongly oppose the approval of air pollution permits for the two auto body paint shops that are proposed along Rhode Island Avenue NE (SMART Automotive (Permit #6962) and T & W Auto Co. (Permit # 6963)).

This area is along the southern border of the historic Brookland neighborhood, which BNCA represents. The Rhode Island corridor is an established residential area with a growing shopping district and increasing pedestrian traffic. It is part of DC's Great Streets program. And the 2007 Small Area Plan (SAP) for Brookland envisioned continued residential use and an increase in light commercial and boutique retail in our community.

This area is not at all appropriate for two new sources of significant air pollution. The members of the BNCA, and our friends and neighbors, should not have this additional environmental insult added to Northeast DC's already-heavy industrial pollution.

Some simple numbers will put into perspective the gross inappropriateness of approving these two facilities. Under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance cited in DDOE's technical support documents for these permits, each of these facilities will be authorized to emit up to 5.85 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) each year. VOCs are hazardous air pollutants that are known to cause cancer. Therefore, combined, these facilities will add about **12 tons of cancer-causing air pollution to this residential neighborhood each year.**

That alone is extremely troubling, but let's put that in perspective. Another major source of air pollution already exists along Rhode Island Avenue NE: the Fort Myer Asphalt Plants 1 & 2 along the rail tracks. DDOE just issued air pollution permits in 2013 to this facility for its recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) crusher (Permit # 6757) and screener

(Permit # 6758). Together, these permits authorize a total of about 4.14 tons per year VOCs (in addition to other pollutants of course). The Fort Myer Construction Co. asphalt facility is the leading supplier of asphalt to the City of Washington, DC. Yet, these two proposed auto paint shops will be allowed to add **three times as much VOCs** to the air we breathe as this major industrial construction facility.

The BNCA strongly urges DDOE to deny these permits. The people of Northeast already have enough industrial air pollution – not just from Fort Myer Co., but from heavy truck traffic, ongoing construction projects, and other industrial facilities along the rail tracks. These auto paint shop permits add environmental insult to injury. They must be denied.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter further. I can be reached at tbridge@gmail.com or at 571-243-3135.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Bridge
Tom Bridge, President

CC: Mayor Muriel Bowser
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie
Acting Director, DDOE, Tommy Wells