



August 8, 2017

Dear Director Tommy Wells:

I write on behalf of the Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association (BNCA), representing the residents of Brookland in Ward 5. The purpose of this letter is to make a formal request to DDOE for official air quality test(s), including ozone and particulate matter in our neighborhood. This request comes with the full support and backing of our Ward 5 Council member Kenyan McDuffie.

Available data demonstrate that the eastern side of DC, including Brookland, has high rates of asthma among its residents.¹ Brookland is a diverse neighborhood with residents from infant stage to elderly and in between. According to census data, over 70 percent of the residents in the Ward are seniors, who are uniquely vulnerable to lung and heart damage from air pollution.

DC's current monitoring network appears to miss pollution carried east into Brookland on prevailing winds from industrial zones along the railroad tracks.² In addition, Brookland has been inundated over the last few years with a significant increase in through traffic, construction and demolition projects, and an extraordinary volume of large (over 1 1/4 ton) trucks that spew diesel particulate matter from the exhaust pipes at the top of the truck as well as from below the trucks' under-carriage. In addition, industrial sites near the Home Depot and Giant and along the CSX railway tracks appear to house facilities that spew particulate matter from their stacks. This may violate DC air quality standards, and/or these facilities' permitted limits. My understanding is that, in general, where plumes are visible to the human eye, there could very well be violations of opacity limits. See, e.g., DC Rule 20-606 (visible emissions) and 20-901 (vehicular exhaust emissions).

We believe an assessment of the air quality in the Brookland neighborhood could be an important and valuable use of the money DDOE is receiving through the Volkswagen settlement. Please work with us to arrange and conduct the necessary air quality tests in Brookland to help us better understand where we are in terms of air quality and what we can do to improve it. If DDOE is able to do this, I ask that you work with the community to identify specific locations and times of the day when the pollution is at its worst, so that problems are not missed due to an inadequate investigation.

We thank you in advance for agreeing to conduct the proper air quality tests in our neighborhood and putting our residents' health and safety first and foremost. We look

¹ http://www.pediatricasthma.org/community_coalitions/washington_dc.

² <https://doee.dc.gov/service/ambient-air-quality-monitoring>.

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forward to the proper testing being conducted and reviewing the test details as well as the test results and recommendations for improvement. You can reach me at daniel.p.schramm@gmail.com or 202-749-0127. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Daniel Schramm
President
Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association

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