

Notes for Statement March 4, 2021
Protest near Mayor Lori Lightfoot's house

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I am humbled to be here this evening, **to speak in solidarity with the REAL public health leaders of the City of Chicago: Leadership is coming from the Southeast Side, from the Chicago hunger strikers from Southeast Youth Alliance from students and workers.**

I am Jim Bloyd, a public health worker with the Collaborative for Health Equity Cook County. I worked for almost 30 years in local public health, at the Cook County County Department of Public Health. I wrote my dissertation on Public Health Leadership for Health Equity.

Dr. Allison Arwady Commissioner of the Chicago Dept. of Public Health is in the process of committing public health malpractice because she is creating a gap between established science and public health policy. And because she is violating her ethical duty to value Black and Brown lives on an equal basis with white lives.

Commissioner Arwady and CDPH and Mayor Lightfoot must DenyThePermit and StopGeneral Iron because The National Institutes of health has described research showing that the **mortality rate increases almost linearly as air pollution increases. Any level of air pollution, no matter how low, is harmful to human health.**” when air pollution from either fine particles or ozone increased intermittently, there was a substantial increase in deaths within a 2-day period.

Commissioner Arwady and CDPH and Mayor Lightfoot must DenyThePermit and StopGeneral Iron because Dr. Arwady's own CDPH web page states that: **Air pollution contributes to increased risk of chronic disease, which is the leading driver of Chicago's nine-year life expectancy gap between Black and white residents and decreases in life expectancy in the Latinx population.**

The National Institutes of Health also notes that Cleaner Air is Tied to healthier lungs in childrenⁱ

Over the past 30 years, researchers have linked a wide array of health effects to air pollution. Among these are reduced lung function, asthma, cardiovascular disease, preterm birth, and even death. The period between 11 and 15 years of age is particularly important for long-term lung function, as lungs are developing rapidly.

The researchers found improvements in lung function development were associated with declining levels of nitrogen dioxide; fine particles, which are 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less (found in smoke and haze); and larger particles with diameters up to 10 micrometers (including

wind-blown dust). The proportion of children with clinically low lung function at 15 years of age also declined as air quality improved. ⁱⁱ

Commissioner Arwady and CDPH and Mayor Lightfoot must DenyThePermit and StopGeneral Iron because the Commissioner's own report titled CITY OF CHICAGO Air Quality and Health Report shows that **the new location of the metal scrap operation is in a location with the worst Air Quality and Health, while the old location was in the best area in the City for air quality and health. This index took into account air pollution characteristics including ozone, particulate matter, diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk; air toxics respiratory hazard index, traffic volume and proximity to risk management plan sites.**

Let me end by saying public health and healthcare workers stand in solidarity with the residents of the Southeast side who are asserting their humanity and right to health, the right to breath clean air. **Paraphrasing Dr. Che Guevara, we know that the life a single human being on the Southeast Side is worth a million times more than all the property of the richest corporate polluter on earth.**

ⁱ March 16, 2015

Cleaner Air Tied to Healthier Lungs in Kids

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/cleaner-air-tied-healthier-lungs-kids>

ⁱⁱ *Source:* <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/air-pollution-linked-risk-premature-death> *JAMA* on December 26, 2017.