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Citing Discriminatory and Dangerous Proximity to Industrial Zoning, Black and Brown Neighborhoods File HUD Complaint Against the City of Dallas

DALLAS -- Individuals and organizations with the *Coalition for Neighborhood Self-Determination* filed a HUD complaint against the City of Dallas for failing to address their communities' proximity to heavy industry in their majority Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

Marsha Jackson, who lived next to the notorious Shingle Mountain illegal dump and still lives next to heavy industrial zoning in Floral Farms, her neighbors in the Floral Farms Neighbors United/Vecinos Unidos association, the Joppa Environmental Health Project, and the Coalition for Neighborhood Self-Determination signed the complaint.

Their complaint details how the City's industrial zoning adjacent to single-family neighborhoods of color violates the Fair Housing Act because the City enacted land-use rules and zoning ordinances restrict or deny housing opportunities or otherwise make dwellings unavailable to persons because of race, color, or national origin. Because of industrial zoning adjacency, residents are harmed by the inability to sell or buy homes and obtain loans for their homes.

“Shingle Mountain wouldn’t have happened if the land next to my home were not zoned heavy industrial,” says Marsha Jackson, Co-Chair of Neighbors United/Vecinos Unidos. *“The nightmare is ongoing because the property next to my house is still zoned heavy industrial, and is currently being used as an illegal truck storage lot and is permitted for metal scrap and salvage.”*

Earlier this Spring, Coalition members proposed the creation of an “Environmental Justice overlay district” that would systematically remove the industrial zoning and land uses that are perpetuating these fair housing violations. Other suggestions by advocacy groups and residents centered on making the city’s zoning process more responsive to environmental justice or racial equity issues. Those signing the complaint say the City has failed to incorporate any of those strategies to address the fair housing violations they see occurring every day.

“The City was zoned in a way that segregated people by race, and concentrated hazardous industrial uses with and adjacent to Black and Hispanic communities” says Evelyn Mayo, Chair of Downwinders at Risk and Fellow at Paul Quinn College. *“Until we undo the zoning itself and begin to parse people away from polluters, which to date the City has failed to present a pathway to achieve this, we will continue to see disparity in pollution concentration and health outcomes.”*

Upon receipt of the complaint and a determination of HUD jurisdiction, HUD will proceed with the investigation.

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