

Community Meeting Concerning Unilever Proposed Expansion
Tuesday, March 31
Zapata Academy
6 – 8 pm

Present: See sign in sheets

Notes

Main Concerns:

- Noise pollution and dust during the construction process
- Noise pollution during night due to increase in truck traffic - residents living across the street from the existing facility complain about truck noise in the night time
- Heavy machinery for construction being used too close to residential area - two years ago, during the demolition of two towers on Unilever's campus, residential structures were damaged (basement concrete slabs cracked)
- Garbage outside Unilever's property - neighbors complain that the company does not maintain the surrounding areas
- Remediation of donated land
- Air pollution from increased truck traffic

Meeting Concerning Unilever Proposed Expansion
Wednesday, April 8
Central States SER
6 – 8 pm

Present: Rafael Abrego, Carmen Prieto, Salvador Prieto, Maria Castellanos, Benjamin Castellanos, Guadalupe Tapia, Daniel Reyes, Marcela Espinoza, David Loyo, Alexander Velazquez, Lulu Martinez, Enrique Torres, Michael Torres, Guadalupe Preston (Central States SER)

Facilitators: Adrian Esquivel and Simone Alexander (Enlace Chicago)

Notes

What about the train blocking trucks leaving 26th Street to Cicero? Unilever should have an access road for trucks to get to get to 31st Street when necessary.

Can we have a guarantee that houses will not be damaged? What about asking for them to install noise-reducing windows? This may not be reasonable to put in the Community Benefits Agreement. It may make sense to separate personal property concerns from this negotiation, and organize neighbors to put pressure on Unilever through the legal system.

Is the environmental study accurate in saying that only geotechnical remediation is necessary? Zapata was built on contaminated land and the activity that went on there could have caused contamination. We need them to be more clear about the state of the site and clean up – it will be difficult to build on a site that is very contaminated.

How can Unilever have more communication with the community? What about an external relations office, bilingual community relations staff person, regularly meetings with a community council? Beyond the Ball has received T-shirt donations from Unilever, but Unilever could be supporting local organizations with direct funding. They could also be more present at community events and activities. They also need to communicate with the community about this project – they should send letters to all neighbors with information and hold more community meetings.

Non-negotiable for the community: remediation of donate land and structure for local hiring are important, but an assurance that Unilever will decrease the impact of truck emissions is what MUST be agreed upon.