

5/20/21

To City of Minneapolis Elected Officials & Candidates,

On April 21st, North Minneapolis residents were again confronted with the environmental threat posed by the Northern Metals facility. For the 3rd time in the last 2 years, an industrial operation owned by the international corporation EMR, parent company to Northern Metals, caught on fire, this time in North Minneapolis. We have known since 2010, that Northern Metals has contributed to air pollution on the Northside that can be attributed to an increased risk of asthma in children, as well as increases in other respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Northern Metals was asked to pay a settlement to the North Minneapolis community in 2017, and shut down in 2019, yet problems at the site persist. As the City of Minneapolis confronts the question of public safety, we must ask ourselves, how does Northern Metal's continued presence in North Minneapolis perpetuate violence against a largely BIPOC community?

As elected officials and candidates for Minneapolis city government, we know our city must demand justice for the residents we represent. We have a long history of environmental racism in this city, and Northern Metals is one of many perpetrators. Today we are coming together to support the community's demands of Northern Metals, and hold them and their parent company, EMR, accountable. In doing so, we hope to build a better future for the Northside community, where residents can live safe and healthy lives.

Demand 1: Northern Metals must release their lease to the City of Minneapolis. As it stands, there is no record of Northern Metal's lease, making it impossible to know if they have violated any conditions. This step is necessary for transparency & accountability between Northern Metals and the Northside.

Demand 2: Cease all activity. Northern Metals was forced to shut down it's metal shredding operation on September 23rd, 2019, yet is still operating a storage facility that has proven to be prone to fires with burning "Fluff" which often contains dangerous materials, including scrap metal. Northern Metals must stop any operations & remove all materials and equipment from their site to prevent another hazardous fire from damaging air quality.

Demand 3: increased monitoring from the City of Minneapolis, and ordinance changes that promote cleaner air on the Northside and provide deeper accountability for the industrial uses along the riverfront. There must be consequences for Northern Metals as they accumulate harm; they cannot be given a clean slate every time they "resolve" a violation. There is no resolution until the harm done has been fully accounted for and remedied.

Demand 4: Structural change from the State of Minnesota, to ensure this does not happen again. Community members need to know that the government is willing to take steps to protect them from further harm. We are asking that MPCA and MDH begin taking a bigger role in assessing health impacts of industrial sites and close gaps in assessing the environmental concerns in communities affected by industrial pollution & environmental racism. We also ask that MPCA put all fines from Northern Metals into an Environmental Justice Fund, giving the community power to invest in green infrastructure and jobs that help repair the harm done by Northern Metals.

We acknowledge that these demands are only the beginning of a long road to justice for community members in North Minneapolis. Environmental justice can only be achieved when the harm has ceased, and community members are fully engaged in creating solutions around creating a future where clean air, healthy residents, and an end to racist systems are possible. We commend the hard work of Community

Members for Environmental Justice in leading the charge against environmental pollution. If you stand with North Minneapolis residents suffering the consequences of environmental racism, we ask that you sign onto this letter with your fellow elected officials and candidates.

In Solidarity,

CM Jeremiah Ellison, Ward 5
Sheila Nezhad, Mayoral Candidate

Elected Official & Candidate Sign Ons:

CM Kevin Reich, Ward 1
CM Cameron Gordon, Ward 2
CM Steve Fletcher, Ward 3
CM Phillipe Cunningham, Ward 4
CM Jamal Osman, Ward 6
CM Lisa Goodman, Ward 7
CM Andrea Jenkins, Ward 8
CM Lisa Bender, Ward 10
CM Jeremy Schroeder, Ward 11
CM Andrew Johnson, Ward 12
CM Linea Palmisano, Ward 13
Londel French, MPRB At-Large Commissioner

Jerrell Perry, Mayoral Candidate
Kate Knuth, Mayoral Candidate
Phil Sturm, Mayoral Candidate
Christa Moseng, Candidate for BET
Tom Olsen, Candidate for Park Board At Large
Risa Hustad, Candidate for Park Board District 6
Elliot Payne, Candidate for Ward 1
Robin Wonsley, Candidate for Ward 2
Nick Kor, Candidate for Ward 7
Teqen Zea Aida, Candidate for Ward 7
Jason Chavez, Candidate for Ward 9
Mickey Moore, Candidate for Ward 9
Aisha Chughtai, Candidate for Ward 10
Steven Frich, Candidate for Ward 10
Katie Jones, Candidate for Ward 10
Willy Lee, Candidate for Ward 12

Learn more at <https://www.cmejustice.org/>, CMEJnorthside@gmail.com