
From: Jonathan Gallagher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 7:14 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: In favor of South Side Recycling - RMG

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern at the City of Chicago,

Myself and Gallagher Asphalt are very much in favor of the South Side Recycling facility in the 10th Ward of Chicago.

RMG is a best-in-class company that is investing in the most modern recycling facility in the Midwest and exceeding environmental standards to go above and beyond for the health and safety of 10th Ward residents.

Illinois and Chicago are losing businesses to surrounding states daily, we need to find ways to keep responsible economic engines like RMG in Chicago. RMG is investing large dollars and jobs into Chicago, Chicago needs to invest in RMG.

Thank you for your time.

Jon Gallagher
Vice President of Business Development & Sales
Gallagher Asphalt Corporation
www.gallagherasphalt.com
[18100 S. Indiana Avenue](#) | [Thornton, IL 60476](#)
T: 708-877-7160 F: 708-877-5222 C: 708-372-2067



Gallagher Asphalt Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer with core values of dedication, relationships, integrity, vision and excellence (D.R.I.V.E.)

From: Beth Ramsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 7:20 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Southside Recycling project

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concert,

Southside Recycling will be the safest, most environmentally friendly recycling facility in Chicago. It will create good jobs and can help make the South Side a model for cleaner industrial operations.

BETH RAMSEY / RESERVE MANAGEMENT GROUP
BETHRAMSEY@RESERVE-GROUP.COM
4550 DARROW RD, STOW, OH 44224
(O) 330-840-3235 (C) 216-396-4997

a reserve management group company

providing safe, responsible + sustainable recycling solutions for our customers and the environment.



This e-mail contains privileged and confidential information which is the property of Reserve Management Group and its affiliates, intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized use or disclosure of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you are not an intended recipient, please immediately notify Reserve Management Group and its affiliates and destroy any copies of this email. Receipt of this e-mail shall not be deemed a waiver by Reserve Management Group and its affiliates of any privilege or the confidential nature of the information.

From: Paul Maskow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 7:47 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Reserve Management Group/Southside Recycling

[Warning: External email]

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I want to go on record as to extent Reserve Management Group goes in protecting the local environment and its surrounding communities. I also need to emphasize how vital a member of the Chicago community RMG has played, and will continue to exercise.

It has always been the RMG experience and practice to make sure the environment surrounding their facilities is protected, and the workers aware of the expectations to that commitment. These practices are strict policy of RMG, and are routinely patrolled and observed by corporate officers to ensure of the compliance. This has been, and will continue to be the exact same policy as instituted and enforced by the team at the new facility in South Chicago. I cannot emphasize enough my witness to RMG's commitment as stewards of our environment.

The facility being constructed in Chicago is the most modern recycling facility in the Midwest, and something which Chicago can be proud, and able to boast. All of the environmental controls and policies that can be brought to bear at this location will NOT be able to exercise should the recycling business go to other existing facilities. RMG is committed to making sure that recycling to their facility comply with the rules and practices they have instituted.

RMG is currently a major employer on the south side of Chicago providing jobs for the community, and taxes for the municipality.

This new facility generates income and benefits to local employees, and provides an economic stream for both the City and its residents. I am sure the City of Chicago is always in need of good business for the regional area, and a mutual partner in establishments like the Chicago Food Bank. RMG is both a vital and committed enterprise to be valued by Chicago.

Most Sincerely
Paul Maskow

PAUL MASKOW / RESERVE IRON OHIO
PAULMASKOW@RESERVE-GROUP.COM
1451 TRUMP AVE NE, CANTON, OH 44730
(O) 330-617-8269 (C) 440-567-1020

a reserve management group company
providing safe, responsible + sustainable recycling solutions for
our customers and the environment.



From: Brian Silver [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 8:08 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Support for Reserve Marine Group (Southside Recycling Project)

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern:

This email serves as a letter of support for the Southside Recycling project of RMG.

RMG has been a responsible and conscientious part of the south side community, and a positive business partner in the greater Chicago area. Their new recycling facility will be good for business, good for people, and good for the future of the planet.

RMG has been at the forefront of metal reclamation and recycling, before it became one of the popular issues of the day. They have taken risks and put in the effort, and again have created jobs, business opportunities, and technological/environmental advancements; Please do your part and approve their permits. It's a win/win for everybody involved.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Silver
[REDACTED]
Highland Park, IL 60035

From: Gary Kiefer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 8:51 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Southside Recycling
Attachments: Southside Recycling.docx

[Warning: External email]

GARY KIEFER / AUBURN METAL PROCESSING
GARYKIEFER@RESERVE-GROUP.COM
6984 NORTH STREET RD, AUBURN, NY 13021
(O) 315-253-2587 (C) 315-277-1489

a reserve management group company

providing safe, responsible + sustainable recycling solutions for
our customers and the environment.



This e-mail contains privileged and confidential information which is the property of Reserve Management Group and its affiliates, intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized use or disclosure of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you are not an intended recipient, please immediately notify Reserve Management Group and its affiliates and destroy any copies of this email. Receipt of this e-mail shall not be deemed a waiver by Reserve Management Group and its affiliates of any privilege or the confidential nature of the information.

To whomever it may concern,

I have been an employee of the Reserve Management Companies for 38+ years. Over the years I have worked at numerous Reserve Management Companies in several different states and municipalities. I started in the early 1980's as a laborer and over the years have held many different positions; equipment operator, machine operator, scale operator and into management, so I have personally been involved in every aspect of their recycling business.

The commitment that Reserve Management has to environmental, safety, health and community awareness is something I am very proud to have been part of. To watch the growth of the company and their commitment to the ever changing environmental, health and safety regulations and policies has been incredible. I have witnessed this commitment at every one of the facilities that I have been part of.

Metal recycling is good for the Earth and good for Chicago. I know that RMG cares about doing the right thing and I am confident that Southside Recycling will be a safe and supportive neighbor in the community.

Gary Kiefer

From: Jeff Tolin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 9:14 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Southside Metal Recycling Project

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support this project for the importance of recycling and the trust that I have in RMG as a responsible recycler who exceeds the recycling restrictions of the local city, state and federal regulations.

Also, the project will bring additional jobs to their community and tax revenue to the city and state.

Thank You,

Jeff Tolin

JEFF TOLIN / REGENCY TECHNOLOGIES
JEFFTOLIN@RESERVE-GROUP.COM
4550 DARROW RD, STOW, OH 44224
(O) 440-287-7212 (C) 440-336-6670

a reserve management group company
providing safe, responsible + sustainable recycling solutions for
our customers and the environment.



This e-mail contains privileged and confidential information which is the property of Reserve Management Group and its affiliates, intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized use or disclosure of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you are not an intended recipient, please immediately notify Reserve Management Group and its affiliates and destroy any copies of this email. Receipt of this e-mail shall not be deemed a waiver by Reserve Management Group and its affiliates of any privilege or the confidential nature of the information.

From: JORGE PEREZ [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 9:23 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Written Comment in Support of RMG Permit
Attachments: Testimony12102020.docx

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern. Please see attached comments. Thank you.

Jorge Perez

Testimony for RMG Public Hearing on Permit December 10, 2020

Hello my name is Jorge Perez and I am from South Chicago

As a resident of the Southeast side of Chicago, I am disappointed with the caricature of our community as perennial victims of greedy polluters with little recourse.

A harder look at the issues surrounding Reserve Marine Group (RMG) provides a greater context of our neighborhood's history as Chicago's industrial/manufacturing hub. Chicago has always rested, if not relied on our broad shoulders to keep the city bustling, and in the process, has lifted our Hispanic community. Everyone would be better served if we broaden our vision of our community and not settle for the stereotypical voices that confirm the misgivings about a historically working class community.

For 25 years, Reserve Management Group has been a local business on the Southeast Side. Their \$80 million in private investment in their expansion is the type of investment that is part of a new wave of investment on the SE Side that we applaud. We need to work with RMG which is how you keep them accountable. You need to be engaged with them.

The current narrative on its location is wrong. It is not "wedged" between the Calumet River and single-family homes. It is set back 2000 ft. from the closest home and 5000 ft (14 football fields) from \$350,000 homes. The Calumet River is and has always been a working industrial river. It is one of the main reasons industry came here over 100 years ago and what should be a key asset for us to build our future. RMG's investment compliments the recent investments that produce jobs like the recently announced \$30 million industrial North Point Development to be built by General Contractor Clayco. This follows North Point's 2018 investment of \$18.6 million in an industrial building being leased to the Ford Motor Company. In addition, Ford Motor Company's \$800 million investment at the Torrence Avenue Assembly Plant and the new \$51.4 million CRRC Sifang's CTA Railcar assembly plant.

The tired narrative of the southeast side and its residents as victims needs to stop. We are not overwhelmingly low income. A majority of 10th warders are made up of city workers, police, fire, educators, nurses, union trades members and professionals.

It's been a long period from the steel mill era to today, enough to be able to reimagine how a predominantly Latino community can be further developed. Even with all the economic challenges suffered in this area by the collapse of the steel industry, we are survivors and have chosen to stay and live in this community. But we are not victims. What is missing is a collective voice for those who see the potential for residents to continue to live and work locally as southeast-siders always have. That voice is one of optimism for our future, not one tampered down by pessimism and victimization. That is not becoming of Chicago or the mighty 10th Ward that I know.

I strongly urge you to approve the permits for RMG.

Jorge Perez

Chicago, IL 60617

From: Jessica Wilkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 9:55 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Support for RMG and Southside Recycling

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I would like to show my support on behalf of Echo Global Logistics for Reserve Management Group and their new business venture of Southside Recycling Group.

RMG has been a community-conscious South Side business for more than 30 years. They have always been good neighbors and are proud to support the Southeast Side of Chicago Food Pantry which operates on their property.

With the advanced pollution control equipment that will be installed in this modern facility, I believe it is crucial for the city of City of Chicago to move forward with the project. Keeping obsolete goods out of landfills and turning them into new recycled products will not only help Chicago's sustainability but also help to create new job opportunities for its residents.

Metal recycling is good for the Earth and good for Chicago. We know that RMG cares about doing the right thing and we are confident that Southside Recycling will be a safe and supportive neighbor in the community.

Thank you!

Jessica Wilkes

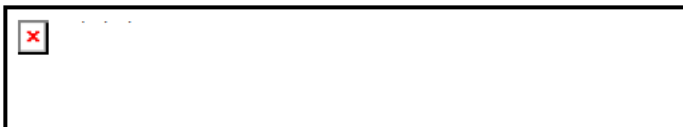
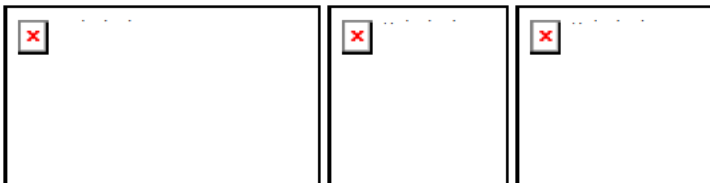
Senior National Account Executive

Echo Global Logistics

600 W. Chicago Ave. | Suite 725 | Chicago, IL 60654

O 800.354.7993 | D 847.213.2539 | C 630.346.8704

jessica.wilkes@echo.com | echo.com | 



From: Isabel Fitzsimons [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:20 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: NO GENERAL IRON

[Warning: External email]

We **MUST** end the discriminatory practice of “dumping” on vulnerable communities, to respect residents' opposition to the move, and to protect residents' health. Not only is this environmentally unfriendly and toxic it is environmental racism and needs to be stopped.

No community deserves to be treated as a sacrifice zone, and the City must stop the racist act of allowing General Iron to move to the Southeast Side.

Climate Change is a real threat and we don't need more pollution we need green energy and sustainable solutions. Mayor Lightfoot's own air quality report released earlier this year showed that the Southeast Side is among the worst in the city. General Iron would only worsen an existing environmental and health problem. Pollution control and EPA regulation would not be enough.

LISTEN to residents who have complained repeatedly. They don't want General Iron. They recognize the risks to their health and the environment and they do not need another industrial burden in their community that only further risks their health and safety.

While it may have economic benefits, creating clean green jobs in the area would also provide economic benefits and be safer.

I hope these comments will have worth and will not merely be a show so that the city can claim it listened to residents. The people are speaking so pay attention.

From: Nancy Schaefer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:44 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: General Iron

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I lived in HydePark-Kenwood for more than fifty years and presently live near North, [REDACTED]. For years I have gone to Pilates at Frog Temple on Cortland Avenue. During those years, General Iron was a terrible polluter as I know from my own experience driving or walking through the smoke and fumes.

if in an upscale neighborhood like Bucktown the city was unable to control pollution from this company, what is the likelihood of success in a poorer neighborhood on the southeast side? This company should not be given a permit to operate the scrap operation anywhere in the city of Chicago.

Best, Nancy Schaefer Kamin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 2:41 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: In Regards To The Expansion Of General Iron

[Warning: External email]

Hello, I write anonymously for I work at RMG. Personally, I have no faith in the city nor EPA to uphold any standards when quite frankly. Whenever we get notice of inspectors, we spend the day shutting down early and cleaning up as to not look so messy. How can you expect General Iron to uphold standards when current standards at the Napuck facility are currently lacking. The roof has holes everywhere water leaks in and every drop of hydraulic oil from machines mixes with it, the machines that lack proper maintenance because of the old, work it till it breaks. We have holes in the floor where all we put is a sheet of steel for 'protection' but the second it slides over oh look! Hole in the ground. The lack of proper PPE although I let it slide cuz covid 19 took all N95 masks so here I go breathing in all the dust. The low standard of us being paid 17.10 and yet the company has enough money to get a whole expansion??? What a slap in the face for this company to tell us its behind, and it goes and makes an expansion. Our bagger has increased profits on bag count. Our machines run more than they have before. And all this to be told we should be happy that they are gonna bring in 'jobs' to the community?? Its smells like shit in the summer on off days, I'll give that to the petcoke, its dusty as all hell around here, they throw water, big woop doesn't stop the dust already in the air. I doubt in the ability when the company they have now they cut corners.

Sincerely yours, Resident of the 10th Ward for over 20 years

From: Matt Avery [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 5:00 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: NO to General Iron metal scrapper

[Warning: External email]

Hello

It is morally wrong to place the a metal scrapper where it will pollute in a populated area. I strongly oppose the move of General Iron's metal scrapper to the East Side.

Sincerely

Matt Avery

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60647

From: Rosanne Tolin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 5:18 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG's new Southside Recycling Facility show of support!

[Warning: External email]

Hi!

My husband, Hal Tolin, is an owner of RMG which has operated as a scrap recycler on the South Side of Chicago for 30 years. I can tell you first hand that he puts people first, which means putting the neighborhood first. He is not only proud to be a good employer offering excellent wages and creating jobs, but he and the company are also great stewards of the environment. Additionally, they support the neighborhood by providing a home for the South Side Chicago Food Pantry, among other things.

I know how hard Hal has worked—day in and out—over the past couple years to make the new Southside Recycling Project something everyone in the area (and in the city) can be proud of. He is determined that the state of the art facility will be safer and cleaner than any other one in Chicago, and the entire Midwest. Not to mention recycling is a green investment in the first place!

The way the media has portrayed this incredible project is completely twisted. They have given voices mainly to small factions and interests groups that refuse to study the facts themselves. This is NOTHING like the old General Iron. It is a completely different business, and yet journalists continue to portray it as though it's the same old company that is shutting down on the north side. Nothing could be further from the truth. Saying the two companies are the same, is like saying if I go and buy a new house but bring a couple pieces of furniture with me, that the new house is exactly like my old one. That's utterly ridiculous, and so is this constant comparison.

One last thing—my husband has worked 12 hour days on the site of the new proposed facility, for the past 30 years. He has every incentive to breathe clean air himself. Not to mention my young sons have worked there in the summers. Why would I support this permit, if I felt like it was unsafe for my family to be there for many hours—day in and day out? And yet here I am, voicing my unwavering support!

Please grant the permit to RMG for Southside Recycling, and the company will pave the way for cleaner recycling across the city of Chicago!

Thank you!

Rosanne Tolin

From: Aileen Vizcayno [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 5:36 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Reserve Management Group- Support

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter with the support of Reserve Management Group (RMG). As you may already know, the company is engaged in ferrous, non-ferrous metals, and electronics recycling in their day-to-day operations. The reason I stand behind RMG is because they are an advocate for reducing emissions. Essentially, when items are recycled, it means new products are made using less raw materials and energy. The reusable nature of recycling scrap metals allows us to preserve the world's finest resources, amplifying their use while also reducing the quantity of waste that ends up in landfills. If we remove RMG, we are effectively harming the environment.

RMG takes its responsibility to the environment seriously. They have invested in measures that meet or exceed all environmental standards. They are truly committed to being stewards of the environment. I currently live in Illinois, and as an Illinois resident, I truly believe that how they operate their business is the most environmentally friendly.

Thank you,

Aileen Vizcayno

From: RAY SORGINE [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 6:23 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG Hearing

[Warning: External email]

Thanks for holding this hearing in regards to RMG. I have to agree with many of the speakers that the tenth ward area is a dumping ground for waste. Plus close to half of the city's garbage gets dumped here. Since the 1980's I believe that the citizens in this community have been against industrial and any other forms of pollution in the community. There are many acres of land in the area, yet RMG is located close to the George Washington High School and Grammar School. Of course there are appropriate sensors and monitoring devices to keep RMG in check?? The entire U. S. Steel South works property lays dormant?? Plus the fact anything coming or going into the RMG plant must go through a residential area?? At the beginning of this meeting the City did explain the parameters of the meeting. This means everything I have written in this email is not acceptable feedback?? What is the purpose of the hearing if the City and the political leaders cannot make a reasonable decision as to why a recycling plant should not be put too close to a school and in the middle of a residential area?? Maybe the City can wake up and see the community has sent a clear message for many years that this is not acceptable. Environmentalism is a major Democratic issue, so what happened?? I guess the Governor and Mayor don't see this and it's not an election year????

Raymond L. Sorgine
Concerned Citizen

[REDACTED]
Chicago IL. 60617
(Former Graduate GWHS 1974)

From: Allison Creighton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:28 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: I support RMG and their new facility

[Warning: External email]

I fully support reserve Management Group (RMG) and their effort opening what will be the most modern recycling facility in the entire Midwest. If this facility is denied a permit, all recycling will go to other facilities, which do not have any of the environmental controls that Southside Recycling will use. This new facility should be embraced by Chicago and its metal recyclers.”

Sincerely,

Allison Creighton

Sent from my iPhone

From: Tim Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:22 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Reserve management group

[Warning: External email]

I am writing in support of the reserve groups south side project.

This will be the most modern recycling facility in the entire Midwest. If this facility is denied a permit, all recycling will go to other facilities, which do not have any of the environmental controls that Southside Recycling will use. This new facility should be embraced by Chicago and its metal recyclers.

Tim D. Rice,

From: Sam Russo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 10:08 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Opposed to General Iron on Southeast Side

[Warning: External email]

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you today add my voice to the residents who are opposed to General Iron's operations being moved to 11600 S Burley, or any other place in the neighborhood. Although I am not a resident in the area, I do work on the Southeast Side and have clients who live nearby - all of whom are opposed to the plan. Residents, activists, and many others have opposed this plan from when it was announced in 2018, and we all know that it wouldn't be moving forward if this was a wealthy white neighborhood.

I understand that most people who spoke in favor of the move were either employees of RMG or had ties to the industry. The company has made it clear that most of its employees who already work there will keep their jobs, so this cannot be posed as a "job-creator" for the neighborhood. It is yet another environmental disaster for the land and people there.

I oppose this plan, how the company has handled it, and how the Lightfoot administration is bulldozing it through without any regard for the residents there. Anyone in favor of it should try living downwind from the plant to see how they like it.

Sam
Uptown, Chicago

From: Cassandra Alba [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 10:38 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Why I am in favor of South side Recycling

[Warning: External email]

RMG has been a community-conscious South Side business for more than 30 years. They have always been good neighbors and are proud to support the Southeast Side of Chicago Food Pantry which operates on their property.

This will be the most modern recycling facility in the entire Midwest. If this facility is denied a permit, all recycling will go to other facilities, which do not have any of the environmental controls that Southside Recycling will use. This new facility should be embraced by Chicago and its metal recyclers.

Other than that, the reason I support the South Side Recycling project is because my father is the only one who brings us stability financially, just like any other male in this company, he is a father who works hard and provides everything for me and my other siblings.

From: Jennifer Pejic [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 5:17 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: southside recycling

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I am in favor of Southside Recycling. Metal recycling is good for the Earth and good for Chicago. We know that RMG cares about doing the right thing and we are confident that Southside Recycling will be a safe and supportive neighbor in the community!

Jennifer and Scott Pejic

From: Robolino, Dominic [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 5:56 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny RMG's Permit

[Warning: External email]

Dear, Mayor Lightfoot and the City of Chicago,

My name is Dominic Robolino and I am a medical student at the University of Chicago. I write to you today to urge you to deny RMG's permit to move North side metal recycler General Iron to the East Side Neighborhood as Southside Recycling. The East Side neighborhood is part of an area of the city known as the 'Toxic Doughnut' due to the dense concentration of industrial polluters and environmental hazards. At multiple sites in the East Side neighborhood, toxic levels of lead and manganese have been found which are both known neurotoxins. The East Side is also home to multiple, extremely-contaminated EPA superfund sites from former industry presence. To allow an air polluting metal recycler to operate less than a mile from a public high school that is disproportionately burdened with an airway disease is negligent at best. To allow this metal recycler to operate is a slap in the face of young people on the southside, people of color on the southside, and low income persons on the southside. It's an admission that their lives, their concerns and their voices matter less than that of the more affluent, white voices of Lincoln Park. If this is not your aim, if you seek health equity, if your goal is a fair society of truly equal opportunity then deny this permit. Do the right thing. Do not let General Iron relocate to East Side and give the community organizers of the southeast side the respect they deserve both as humans and Chicagoans.

Sincerely,
Dominic Robolino

From: Sakthivel, Meera [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 5:57 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: FW: Stop the Relocation of General Iron

[Warning: External email]

Dear City of Chicago,

I'm a first year medical student at the Pritzker School of Medicine, and I'm writing to insist that you deny Reserve Management Group's permit to relocate the metal recycler General Iron from Lincoln Park to the East Side neighborhood. This is a blatant example of environmental racism, as General Iron is a notorious polluter that was cited for pollution violations almost a dozen times within a 5-month period. To move this facility from the wealthy Lincoln Park neighborhood to the predominantly Hispanic and low-income East Side is a clear declaration that the health and wellbeing of some Chicagoans is more important than others'.

The East Side and adjacent neighborhoods are already subject to disproportionate health hazards due to the existing industrial burden in the area. This neighborhood has around twice the rates of asthma when compared to Lincoln park and twice the pediatric asthma hospitalization rate. It's difficult to understate the damaging effect that this relocation would have on the health of this community, and if we already agree that this business was too harmful to be in Lincoln Park, why are we okay with it on the East Side?

I implore you to do the right thing, protect the health and safety of ALL Chicagoans, and deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Meera Sakthivel

From: Gabriela Betancourt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:01 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Comments on General Iron Relocation to East Side Neighborhood -Deny the permit

[Warning: External email]

Dear City of Chicago and Mayor Lightfoot,

I firmly believe that General Iron should not be allowed to relocate to the East Side neighborhood under RMG's management. General Iron is a public health hazard and a danger to the residents of Lincoln Park, and for this reason, the residents of Lincoln Park have organized to remove the facility from their neighborhood. If you acknowledge that the presence of General Iron is detrimental to the Lincoln Park community, you must also acknowledge that to relocate the facility to the East Side neighborhood would shift those negative community impacts to a community that is already disproportionately burdened. To do so can only be described as an act of environmental racism.

As a medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, I am particularly concerned about the impacts of the General Iron facility on the health of East Side neighborhood residents. The East Side neighborhood has twice the prevalence of asthma as the Lincoln Park neighborhood and twice the pediatric asthma hospitalization rate (1). This chronic condition keeps kids from going to school and keeps their parents from going to work, further impacting the community beyond simply the health of its constituents. General Iron is a known chronic air polluter, having committed 11 pollution violations in a five-month period in 2018 (2). It is unjust and discriminatory to allow the further concentration of health hazards such as General Iron in black and brown low-income neighborhoods. These facilities sicken community members and decrease property values, which has deleterious long-term impacts on the wealth, development, and health of the community. Allowing General Iron to continue operations at the expense of black and brown lives is a glaring step backward on the path to health equity.

Deny the permit. Do not allow General Iron to relocate to the East Side neighborhood. Moving forward, the city should work directly with community organizers to determine a more appropriate location for General Iron's relocation. Please consider the health and wellbeing of the community members that will be damaged if the permit is approved.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Betancourt

Gabriela Betancourt (she/her/hers)
MS1 - Class of 2024
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

From: Lang, Theodore [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:05 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny RMG's permit
Attachments: TheodoreLang_GenerallIronLetter .pdf

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I have attached a letter detailing my disapproval of granting RMG's permit to relocate General Iron from Lincoln Park to the East Side.

Protect the Southside!

Theodore Lang (he/him/his)
M.D. Candidate Class of 2024
UChicago Pritzker School of Medicine
[REDACTED]

Dear City of Chicago,

I am a first-year medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. As a future physician, I understand how the environment in which patients live deeply impacts their health and overall quality of life. It is for this reason that I implore you to reject the relocation of General Iron from Lincoln Park to the Southeast side neighborhood. General Iron accumulated 11 pollution violations in a 5-month period in 2018 in addition to being fined \$6,000 by the City of Chicago for their most recent explosion incident on May 18, 2020. Given General Iron's track record, the construction of a Factory in the East Side neighborhood would be an act of environmental racism, one that would further increase the disproportionate negative health outcomes that communities of color on the Southside are forced to endure. Say no to General Iron. Say no to Environmental Racism. Protect communities of color. Protect the Southside.

Sincerely,
Theodore Lang

From: Ren, Megan [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:07 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny RMG's permit to move General Iron to southside

[Warning: External email]

Dear Mayor Lightfoot,

My name is Megan Ren and I am a medical student at the University of Chicago. I am writing to firmly oppose the relocation of General Iron to the East Side neighborhood under RMG's management. General Iron has a history of environmental health violations that will undoubtedly continue in this new location. Among their emissions is PM2.5, a small particulate matter known to cause and exacerbate asthma and other respiratory conditions. By granting this permit, you are taking advantage of a population that is already disproportionately burdened with high rates of asthma, COPD, and other chronic health conditions. In fact, the East Side neighborhood has roughly twice the prevalence of asthma as the Lincoln Park neighborhood and twice the pediatric asthma hospitalization rate. **This is an explicit act of environmental racism.**

If General Iron is not allowed to continue operating in Lincoln Park, there is no reason why it should be allowed to operate in the predominantly low-income, black and brown communities of the southside. The City of Chicago should be looking to alleviate the existing health disparities rather than exacerbate the problem. You cannot acknowledge that black and brown lives matter yet also support this act that would directly harm vulnerable communities of color. I strongly urge you to deny RMG's permit.

Sincerely,
Megan Ren

--

Megan Ren (she/her/hers)
M.D. Candidate Class of 2024
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
[REDACTED]

From: Agrawal, Anya [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:09 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny RMG's Permit to Relocate General Iron to East Side

[Warning: External email]

Dear Mayor Lightfoot,

My name is Anya Agrawal and I am a medical student at the University of Chicago.

I strongly urge you to deny RMG's permit to move General Iron to the East Side neighborhood. Allowing them to relocate this hazardous plant, known to be a tremendous public health hazard, into a community that already carries a disproportionate structural health burden is absolutely unconscionable. There is no other name for this act besides **explicit environmental racism**.

On the Southeast side of the city, Black and Latinx communities have long struggled to survive in neighborhoods filled with landfills, sewage treatment plants, contaminated industrial tracts, and polluted rivers. It is well known that these environmental factors have led to a disproportionate burden of health conditions. For example, the East Side neighborhood has roughly twice prevalence of asthma as the Lincoln Park neighborhood and twice the pediatric asthma hospitalization rate. General Iron would only dramatically exacerbate these health disparities.

Speaking about the decision to kick General Iron out of Lincoln Park, Alderman Brian Hopkins stated, "We can't afford this additional element of risk layered on top of a respiratory virus that is out there threatening all of our health." If Lincoln Park residents cannot afford this risk, how can the residents of East Side be expected to afford it?

Don't allow this be a stain on the moral fabric of Chicago. You must deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Anya Agrawal (*she/her/hers*)
M.D. Candidate, Class of 2024
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

From: Umesh, Nikhil [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:13 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Public Comment: Deny RMG's Permit for Relocation

[Warning: External email]

Dear City of Chicago,

I am writing to you first as a medical student at the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago. As future physicians, my peers and I have taken an oath to serve our patients and "first, do no harm." I am a firm believer that this principle of doing no harm similarly applies to our government officials — you are also tasked with ensuring the well being and health of all your constituents, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, or the neighborhood that they call home.

Consequently, I am writing today to demand that General Iron should not be allowed to relocate to the East Side neighborhood under the rebranding of Southside Recycling. As you all are well aware, the plant is being moved from a majority white, upper class Lincoln Park to a majority Latinx, working class East Side — a blatant example of environmental racism, where greater pollution is being brought to a community already burdened by higher rates of childhood asthma and cancer, and the related consequences of lower life expectancy that come with poverty and social marginalization. The 2016 Illinois Childhood Asthma Surveillance Report by the Illinois Department of Public Health found that the rate of childhood asthma inpatient hospitalizations and ED visits in the East Side neighborhood is markedly higher than rates in Lincoln Park, being on average three to four times greater.

Bringing General Iron to the East Side neighborhood is not only going to worsen the health of the children and adults living there, but is a clear statement to these residents that their lives are in fact less of a priority than their more affluent counterparts throughout the city.

Deny the permit. Be on the side of justice, anti-racism, and health equity. No one deserves this -- neither the residents of Lincoln Park nor the residents of East Side.

Sincerely,
Nikhil Umesh

References:

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/publicationsowh2016-il-childhood-asthma-surveillance-report.pdf>

Nikhil Umesh (he/him/his)

MD Candidate | Class of 2024
The University of Chicago
Pritzker School of Medicine

From: Upp, Lily [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:44 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny RMG's Permit

[Warning: External email]

To Mayor Lori Lightfoot,

I am writing today to request that you deny the Reserve Management Group's (RMG) permit to move metal recycling company General Iron from Lincoln Park to the East Side neighborhood. As a medical student at Pritzker School of Medicine and resident of south Chicago, I am deeply invested in the health of my neighbors, and there is strong evidence that the relocation of General Iron would do great harm. Already, the city of Chicago has recognized the dangers of General Iron's presence in the north side community (chicagotribune.com). Just last month, General Iron paid \$18,000 in fines for violations of air pollution and public nuisance (related to explosions) ordinances. A week after paying those fines, a fire broke out on the premises, demonstrating that the company is not committed to revising their dangerous practices (chicago.suntimes.com). Catastrophic events aside, General Iron's day-to-day operations will inherently exacerbate the existing health burdens faced by residents of the East Side community. These individuals already face disproportionately high rates of asthma (dph.illinois.gov), and the chemicals emitted by General Iron's recycling methods are known to worsen asthmatic conditions (Williams et al; PMID: PMC6431208.). No person deserves to have their home polluted for the benefit of a corporation. I urge you to take action that will protect the health of our community.

Signed,

Lily Upp (she/her)

From: David Seamon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:52 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny the General Iron Relocation Permit

[Warning: External email]

Dear City of Chicago and Mayor Lightfoot,

As a resident of southern Chicago, I was enraged to learn about the planned relocation of a major polluter from affluent Lincoln Park to the less-affluent East Side neighborhood. Oftentimes, when a person learns about racial, social, and economic injustices of the past, they can not imagine such injustice happening in current times. However, cases such as this one remind us all that these injustices do persist, with this relocation being a textbook example of NIMBYism (wealthy neighborhoods pushing environmental problems off to lower-class neighborhoods who do not have the resources to push back).

By allowing such a relocation to take place, the Chicago government is effectively declaring that the livelihood of those who live in Lincoln Park is more important than the livelihood of those who live in East Side. While at least most people who live in Lincoln Park and fear for their physical well-being have the resources to move away from a toxic site, far fewer who live in East Side have those same resources. Expounding the injustice is the fact that East Side is largely Latino, so those negatively impacted may have a language barrier preventing them vocalizing their dissent to such an action.

The City of Chicago needs to deny the permit, and end the practice of environmentally victimizing those who do not have the social and economic status to fight back against these injustices.

David Seamon

From: Marco Rivas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:15 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny the Permit: Notes on General Iron Relocation to Southeast Side

[Warning: External email]

Dear City of Chicago, Mayor Lightfoot, and whomever else it may concern:

My name is Marco Rivas. I am a lifelong resident of Chicago, and currently a first-year medical student at the University of Chicago. I am writing this e-mail to express my concern about General Iron's relocation to the Southeast Side. I write to implore and plead with the city and mayor to deny General Iron's building permit. It is not fair that this facility will be built when it was deemed too unsafe for Lincoln Park. Meanwhile, the Southeast Side is among the worst places in the city when it comes to air quality. The Southeast Side area has twice the prevalence of asthma as the Lincoln Park neighborhood and twice the pediatric asthma hospitalization rate. The last thing the Southeast Side residents need is a business that spits out harmful airborne pollutants in an already high-risk area.

General Iron is a public health hazard. Their history of violations speaks for itself. As someone at the recent virtual public meeting poignantly expressed: "If it's not safe enough for the white people in Lincoln Park, why will it be safe enough for us?" It is clear from the virtual public meeting that the majority of community members agree: We do not want General Iron in the Southeast Side. Additionally, moving the negative community impacts associated with General Iron's pollution from Lincoln Park to the Southeast Side is overt environmental racism.

With COVID-19, our communities are already suffering. Please, do the right thing and deny this permit. Alleviate some of the burdens that already overwhelmingly and disproportionately affect our Black and Brown communities. Prioritize people over profits. Prioritize health and well-being over politics.

Sincerely,
Marco Rivas

From: Sleiman, Marc [UCM] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 10:56 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny General Iron's Relocation

[Warning: External email]

Dear Mayor Lightfoot and the City of Chicago,

My name is Marc Sleiman, and I am a proud resident of the historic Hyde Park neighborhood on Chicago's south side. As a medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, I believe in providing compassionate care and improving the health of chronically underserved and underrepresented communities.

As part of that mission, I urge you to reconsider the relocation of General Iron to the southeast side of the city. General Iron has an incriminating environmental record, which includes 5 city pollution violations, reports of noxious odors, EPA reprimands due to volatile compound release, explosions, and fires. They were initially removed from Lincoln Park because of their abhorrent environmental track record, one which they have failed to consistently improve. They can not yet be trusted to hold true to their word on better environmental protections.

In addition, when we consider the current coronavirus pandemic, clean air becomes even more important. It is well-documented that Black and Hispanic populations have been disproportionately harmed by the coronavirus, so placing an additional respiratory burden on these communities in this time of great need is irresponsible. This relocation risks exacerbating the health equity gap and compounding the already-present differences in asthma rates and asthma hospitalizations between white and minority neighborhoods

I urge you to deny the permit and prevent the relocation of General Iron to the southeast side. This company has consistently neglected the health and wellbeing of its community, and it cannot be trusted to implement new environmental regulations. All people deserve clean air and the opportunity to live a long and healthy life, and our neighbors should not be guinea pigs for corporate interests. Please consider denying this relocation until proper environmental protections can be guaranteed for our most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,
Marc Sleiman

Marc G. Sleiman M.D. Candidate '24
The University of Chicago | Pritzker School of Medicine
e: [REDACTED]

From: Lisa Belkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:58 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Southside Recycling Permit

[Warning: External email]

City of Chicago:

RMG is building a brand new recycling facility, Southside Recycling. They invested in measures that meet or exceed all environmental standards making it the most modern facility as of this writing. If this facility is denied a permit and recycling goes to other facilities in the Chicago area, the other facilities do not meet these strict standards.

RMG has always been a great South Side neighbor supporting the community through job creation and community service such as the Southeast Side of Chicago Food Pantry which operates on their property. This new facility should be embraced by the local community and the City of Chicago.

I support permit approval. I believe it will create jobs and be a model for cleaner industrial operations in the South Side.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Belkin
Attorney at Law

From: Francisco Martinez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:06 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: south side recycling

[Warning: External email]

RMG is creating jobs and the facility is going to be state of the art. There's is nothing wrong about what is trying to do and I support what they have found in trying to build a better environment. It's recycling and helping the earth enough said and enough of people not knowing the facts.

FRANCISCO MARTINEZ / GII, LLC
FRANCISCOMARTINEZ@GENERAL-IRON.COM
1909 N CLIFTON AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60614



a reserve management group company
providing safe, responsible + sustainable recycling solutions for
our customers and the environment.



This e-mail contains privileged and confidential information which is the property of Reserve Management Group and its affiliates, intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized use or disclosure of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you are not an intended recipient, please immediately notify Reserve Management Group and its affiliates and destroy any copies of this email. Receipt of this e-mail shall not be deemed a waiver by Reserve Management Group and its affiliates of any privilege or the confidential nature of the information.

From: Mark Mountain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:29 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: I support RMG and Southside Recycling!

[Warning: External email]

Dear City of Chicago,

I'm writing to let you know that I support Reserve Management Group and their new business called Southside Recycling.

Recycling metal is environmentally friendly and a business that all citizens and environmentalists should support. According to the U.S. EPA, metals recycling has increased dramatically since the 1980's. Unfortunately, every year more metals are landfilled than recycled. That said, the City of Chicago's support for Southside Recycling shows you care about the environment and your city. In permitting Southside to operate you support the environment and are keeping good-paying jobs in the city. That's a Win/Win! I understand that Southside Recycling will be one of the safest and most environmentally friendly recycling facilities in Chicago. They can be the gold standard to which you compare other recyclers.

--

Regards,
Mark Mountain

From: kris hornyak [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:49 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Reserve Management Group

[Warning: External email]

I am writing in support of the reserve groups south side project.

This will be the most modern recycling facility in the entire Midwest. If this facility is denied a permit, all recycling will go to other facilities, which do not have any of the environmental controls that Southside Recycling will use. This new facility should be embraced by Chicago and its metal recyclers.

From: Tolin, Isabelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:49 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG New Business

[Warning: External email]

Good Afternoon,

I am emailing to share that I support Reserve Management Group and their new business, Southside Recycling. RMG has been a community-conscious South Side business for more than 30 years. They have always been good neighbors and are proud to support the Southeast Side of Chicago Food Pantry which operates on their property. This company not only focuses on following all guidelines when it comes to recycling operation but focuses on their community and members in need. It would be unfortunate to not allow a company that dives into communal efforts to expand and give further to Chicago and its members within the community.

With gratitude,
Isabelle Tolin

Isabelle Tolin
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
John Carroll University- Class of 2021
President- Panhellenic Council
Sociology & Gender, Sexuality Women's Studies Major

From: Michael Morton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:10 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Alta Equipment Supports RMG's Southside Recycling project

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern:

Please know that Reserve Management Group operations are run to the highest standards of environmental compliance. The new Southside Recycling project will be the most modern recycling facility in the entire Midwest. If this facility is denied a permit, all recycling will go to other facilities, most which do not have any of the environmental controls that Southside Recycling will use.

Further, it is my understanding that the proposed new facility will have even more comprehensive pollution controls and monitoring than the current operation or any other similar recycling business in the area.

Given this commitment to environmental responsibility, I want to reiterate my full support for Reserve Management Group and General III, LLC and the Southside Recycling project.

Regards,

ALTA EQUIPMENT
COMPANY

UP TIME MATTERS

MICHAEL MORTON
GENERAL MANAGER, DIST
480 Blaine St.
Gary, IN
46406
219-713-4695
michael.morton@altg.com
www.altaequipment.com

From: Grasser, Henry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:32 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: I support RMG

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I want to support RMG



Henry Grasser
Sales Rep-Post Acute Care
Field Sales
Medline Industries, Inc.
www.medline.com



314-239-5724 (Phone)
1-866-680-4805 (Fax)
1-866-497-0655 ext 6368347 Theresa Imbus
(Customer Service)
hgrasser@medline.com

From: Kenneth A. Dery [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:57 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Southside Recycling Comments

[Warning: External email]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been following the events leading up to the soon-to-be closing of General Iron's shredding facility and the opening of RMG's new facility on Chicago's Southside for over a year. What a win-win for all of the Chicago area and its residents!

Of course there would be environmental concerns about any new proposed recycling facility. This is as it should be. However, after reading and studying the incredible efforts of RMG and the City of Chicago and all of its environmental stewards --- one can only be immensely proud of all concerned and involved. This will truly be a world-class operation that should be a proud show-place for all of the country to see and recognize.

When one looks at the data of incredible savings of resources and energy by the recycling of metals from end-of-life automobiles, freezers, refrigerators and the like --- this new facility speaks to many of our country's current challenges. Global warming climate change, coal-burning and other environmental issues abound. This new facility looks to our future in an economical and environmentally safe and smart way. Three cheers for all of those involved with making it happen.

As a final note, I am personally acquainted with the Joseph family and other key members of RMG's management team. They are people of the finest character and integrity. What they say and do is always of the highest standard. RMG has for many years done a responsible job on Chicago's Southside --- and you can be certain that this totally new operation will continue that tradition.

Thank you for reading these comments. This project should ABSOLUTELY be granted its well thought out and deserved final permits.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Dery

From: Flennard Jordan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:51 PM
To: envcomments; [REDACTED]

[Warning: External email]

RMG is a very good company, and take pride in environmental safety and protecting our environment they stand behind there production to keeping us & our neighbors safe ,thats a number 1 priority. Thank you

From: Mark Velez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:18 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG/GENERAL IRON VS. East Side
Attachments: General Iron letter.pdf

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I ask that you please read my letter to the end. I'm opposed to the granting of the proposed permit to RMG/General Iron, however I get the feeling the city is planning on granting the permit so I figured I might as well make some requests if that is to be the case.

My name is Mark Velez, I'm a lifelong 10th ward resident. I'm a lifelong East Sider. I live only a few blocks from RMG's facility. My life and the lives of my family will be directly affected by this permit being granted. The East Side already has an abundance of industrial businesses in our neighborhood that create a lot of pollution. Bad smells pop up all the time. We have traffic jams from our bridges going up to let boats pass (yes, boats and bridges... I know that doesn't happen on the north side). We have traffic jams from freight trains, and we have an ever-increasing amount of truck traffic.

I'm embarrassed when friends from other neighborhoods come over and comment about the bad smells. I'm embarrassed when people comment about our neighborhood being dirty. I get angry when I talk about all the great things the East Side has going for it, like fishing, hiking and wildlife and someone comments "but you can't eat the fish" or "yeah, but too bad it's so polluted".

You can say that this facility will be safe. But I know firsthand that industrial companies like these have a severely negative impact on our neighborhood and the people who live here. I've had 3 relatives die from cancer over the course of the past 5 years. It's because they lived here their whole life; and that makes me very sad. Even knowing that, I don't care. I'm going to live here my entire life as well. I love the East Side and my kids are going to grow up to be East Siders just like their dad.

I don't have to tell you about all the bad environmental stuff the East Side has going on already. The expansion of RMG alongside with the expansion of the industrial park by the Ford plant are going to negatively affect our quality of life without a doubt.

It seems that the city has no interest in standing up and saying enough is enough. It seems that as long as these companies are complying with EPA guidelines, you're going to let it happen. While this deeply saddens me, I do have some requests to make if this permit is granted. These measures would make this situation a little more palatable.

1) A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT

Perhaps the worst part about this situation is that the people whose lives will be impacted most will not benefit whatsoever. The company will benefit, the City of Chicago will benefit, politicians will benefit. But what about us? We have to breathe the dirty air. We have to put up with the traffic. We have to hear all the loud noises.

I'm demanding that if this permit is granted, RMG must commit in writing to a COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT. This agreement shall obligate that RMG contribute 5% of their annual proceeds (or \$500,000, whichever is greater) to measures that will enhance the lives of the community in which they operate, the EAST SIDE. (NOT THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO, NOT SOUTH CHICAGO, NOT ANOTHER 10TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD... CHICAGO'S EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD!) RMG shall also donate an additional \$500,000 to the East Side before the permit is granted as a sign of good faith and investment in our community.

Because our neighborhood's average household income is higher than other south side neighborhoods, we don't qualify for many city programs, like INVEST SOUTHWEST. This would help us strengthen our neighborhood.

I would also like to see all the industrial companies in the 10th ward sign similar Community Benefits Agreements. The majority of Ford employees don't live in the 10th ward. Same goes for the rest of the companies that pollute our neighborhoods. They pollute our neighborhood and then go home to their nice clean suburbs or back to the north side. All the companies that will be moving into the new industrial park need to pay to offset the damage they cause to our lives and our environment every day.

I'd like to see the first installment of these funds go to beautifying downtown East Side (106th Street, from Indianapolis Blvd to the bridge, and Ewing Avenue from 112th St. to 99th St.). It looks like a ghetto and we deserve better. I'd also like to see the largest and best skatepark in the Midwest built under the Chicago Skyway. This will make the East Side a destination and give the neighborhood's youth something constructive to do. I'd like the old, worn out mural on Ewing Ave. repainted and maintained. I'd like "Welcome to the East Side" neighborhood markers put up on all entries into the neighborhood (Avenue O, coming from Hegewisch, 112th coming from Indiana, 106th coming from South Deering, Ewing Ave. coming from South Chicago). No one knows that the East Side is the name of a neighborhood in Chicago and it's a sore spot for many of us. I'd also like to see some of the 10th ward's vast vacant land be turned into the city's first dirtbike park. Riding dirt bikes and 4 wheelers is a favorite past time of many of the kids in the neighborhood and a dirtbike park would give our neighborhood some much needed cool points and make it a destination.

If these dirty industries invested in our neighborhood with measures like these, I'm confident there would be a lot less resistance.

2) INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO OFFSET INCREASED TRUCK, BOAT AND TRAIN TRAFFIC

There has recently been a surge in truck, train and boat traffic in our neighborhood. The companies that use these means of transportation and the City of Chicago need to invest to create overpasses for all the railroad crossings in the neighborhood. (Torrence Ave. and 106th near Hienie's Chicken in South Deering, Ewing Ave. headed to South Chicago).

3) CAPS ON BOAT TRAFFIC, TRAIN TRAFFIC, TRUCK TRAFFIC

I've been getting caught by a boat or a train traffic jam every day. It's terrible. Also too many trucks are on our roads. There needs to be a limit to how many boat and trains can pass every day and how many trucks are allowed to drive through the East Side.

4) MORE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Two monitors isn't enough! The wind blows in all directions. We need North, South, East and West at a minimum. Especially going towards Avenue O, Rowan Park and the residential neighborhood.

5) RANDOM AUDITS

RMG should be randomly audited by a City of Chicago official atleast once quarterly and reports should be shared with residents of the East Side.

6) CLEARLY DEFINED MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN IF VIOLATIONS OCCUR

One of the things Lincoln Park residents said about General Iron is that paying fines is part of their business model. This is unacceptable. The City needs to clearly define what will happen if violations occur. This should include the final measure of the company's license being revoked and loss of ability to operate in the City of Chicago. Three strikes and you're out!

Thank you for considering my input. I pray that the City of Chicago does the right thing and denies these permits. We're already overburdened with polluting businesses in our neighborhood, neighboring Indiana and surrounding neighborhoods. However, if you proceed, I hope you include my recommendations.

Best Regards,

Mark Velez

[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL 60617

[REDACTED]



Hello,

I ask that you please read my letter to the end. I'm opposed to the granting of the proposed permit to RMG/General Iron, however I get the feeling the city is planning on granting the permit so I figured I might as well make some requests if that is to be the case.

My name is Mark Velez, I'm a lifelong 10th ward resident. I'm a lifelong East Sider. I live only a few blocks from RMG's facility. My life and the lives of my family will be directly affected by this permit being granted. The East Side already has an abundance of industrial businesses in our neighborhood that create a lot of pollution. Bad smells pop up all the time. We have traffic jams from our bridges going up to let boats pass (yes, boats and bridges... I know that doesn't happen on the north side). We have traffic jams from freight trains, and we have an ever-increasing amount of truck traffic.

I'm embarrassed when friends from other neighborhoods come over and comment about the bad smells. I'm embarrassed when people comment about our neighborhood being dirty. I get angry when I talk about all the great things the East Side has going for it, like fishing, hiking and wildlife and someone comments "but you can't eat the fish" or "yeah, but too bad it's so polluted".

You can say that this facility will be safe. But I know firsthand that industrial companies like these have a severely negative impact on our neighborhood and the people who live here. I've had 3 relatives die from cancer over the course of the past 5 years. It's because they lived here their whole life; and that makes me very sad. Even knowing that, I don't care. I'm going to live here my entire life as well. I love the East Side and my kids are going to grow up to be East Siders just like their dad.

I don't have to tell you about all the bad environmental stuff the East Side has going on already. The expansion of RMG alongside with the expansion of the industrial park by the Ford plant are going to negatively affect our quality of life without a doubt.

It seems that the city has no interest in standing up and saying enough is enough. It seems that as long as these companies are complying with EPA guidelines, you're going to let it happen. While this deeply saddens me, I do have some requests to make if this permit is granted. These measures would make this situation a little more palatable.

1) A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT

Perhaps the worst part about this situation is that the people whose lives will be impacted most will not benefit whatsoever. The company will benefit, the City of Chicago will benefit, politicians will benefit. But what about us? We have to breathe the dirty air. We have to put up

with the traffic. We have to hear all the loud noises.

I'm demanding that if this permit is granted, RMG must commit in writing to a COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT. This agreement shall obligate that RMG contribute 5% of their annual proceeds (or \$500,000, whichever is greater) to measures that will enhance the lives of the community in which they operate, the EAST SIDE. (NOT THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO, NOT SOUTH CHICAGO, NOT ANOTHER 10TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD... CHICAGO'S EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD!) RMG shall also donate an additional \$500,000 to the East Side before the permit is granted as a sign of good faith and investment in our community.

Because our neighborhood's average household income is higher than other south side neighborhoods, we don't qualify for many city programs, like INVEST SOUTHWEST. This would help us strengthen our neighborhood.

I would also like to see all the industrial companies in the 10th ward sign similar Community Benefits Agreements. The majority of Ford employees don't live in the 10th ward. Same goes for the rest of the companies that pollute our neighborhoods. They pollute our neighborhood and then go home to their nice clean suburbs or back to the north side. All the companies that will be moving into the new industrial park need to pay to offset the damage they cause to our lives and our environment every day.

I'd like to see the first installment of these funds go to beautifying downtown East Side (106th Street, from Indianapolis Blvd to the bridge, and Ewing Avenue from 112th St. to 99th St.). It looks like a ghetto and we deserve better. I'd also like to see the largest and best skatepark in the Midwest built under the Chicago Skyway. This will make the East Side a destination and give the neighborhood's youth something constructive to do. I'd like the old, worn out mural on Ewing Ave. repainted and maintained. I'd like "Welcome to the East Side" neighborhood markers put up on all entries into the neighborhood (Avenue O, coming from Hegewisch, 112th coming from Indiana, 106th coming from South Deering, Ewing Ave. coming from South Chicago). No one knows that the East Side is the name of a neighborhood in Chicago and it's a sore spot for many of us. I'd also like to see some of the 10th ward's vast vacant land be turned into the city's first dirtbike park. Riding dirt bikes and 4 wheelers is a favorite past time of many of the kids in the neighborhood and a dirtbike park would give our neighborhood some much needed cool points and make it a destination.

If these dirty industries invested in our neighborhood with measures like these, I'm confident there would be a lot less resistance.

2) INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO OFFSET INCREASED TRUCK, BOAT AND TRAIN TRAFFIC

There has recently been a surge in truck, train and boat traffic in our neighborhood. The companies that use these means of transportation and the City of Chicago need to invest to create overpasses for all the railroad crossings in the neighborhood. (Torrence Ave. and 106th near Hienie's Chicken in South Deering, Ewing Ave. headed to South Chicago).

3) CAPS ON BOAT TRAFFIC, TRAIN TRAFFIC, TRUCK TRAFFIC

I've been getting caught by a boat or a train traffic jam every day. It's terrible. Also too many trucks are on our roads. There needs to be a limit to how many boat and trains can pass every day and how many trucks are allowed to drive through the East Side.

4) MORE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Two monitors isn't enough! The wind blows in all directions. We need North, South, East and West at a minimum. Especially going towards Avenue O, Rowan Park and the residential neighborhood.

5) RANDOM AUDITS

RMG should be randomly audited by a City of Chicago official atleast once quarterly and reports should be shared with residents of the East Side.

6) CLEARLY DEFINED MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN IF VIOLATIONS OCCUR

One of the things Lincoln Park residents said about General Iron is that paying fines is part of their business model. This is unacceptable. The City needs to clearly define what will happen if violations occur. This should include the final measure of the company's license being revoked and loss of ability to operate in the City of Chicago. Three strikes and you're out!

Thank you for considering my input. I sincerely hope the City of Chicago denies these permits. We're already overburdened with polluting businesses in our neighborhood, neighboring Indiana and surrounding neighborhoods. However, if you proceed, I hope you include my recommendations.

Best Regards,

Mark Velez

[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL 60617

[REDACTED]