

LITTLE VILLAGE DESERVES TO BREATHE

Photo Credit: Alejandro Reyes

Virtual Community Meeting: Updates on Hilco's Implosion & City of Chicago Response

When: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – 6pm to 7:15pm

Where: LVEJO's Facebook page

Dear community and allies, thank you for your patience and support. LVEJO has been working around the clock to update Little Village residents about the ongoing environmental disaster Hilco Redevelopment Partners (Hilco) caused on the morning of April 11, 2020. After much pressure from residents, LVEJO, and allies; the City of Chicago conducted preliminary soil samples, set-up equipment to monitor air, and created a website. We will be hosting a virtual community meeting via our Facebook page to breakdown all the information the City has shared, next steps to continue to pressure the Cook County Assessor's Office to rescind the \$19.7 million dollar tax break, and for Hilco to vacate the Little Village community.

For more information / Para más información: etovar@lvejo.org | 312.612.9256



LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION
LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL DE LA VILLITA

Thank you for joining us!

We'll be starting soon



Hilco's Implosion and City of Chicago Response

Wednesday, May 13, 2020



Photo credit: Alejandro Reyes

LVEJO



Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)



The mission of LVEJO is to organize with our community to accomplish environmental justice in Little Village and achieve the self-determination of immigrant, low-income, and working-class families.

Who is Who?



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION



Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency



TARGET



Little Village: Environmental Justice Community



Open space Campaign



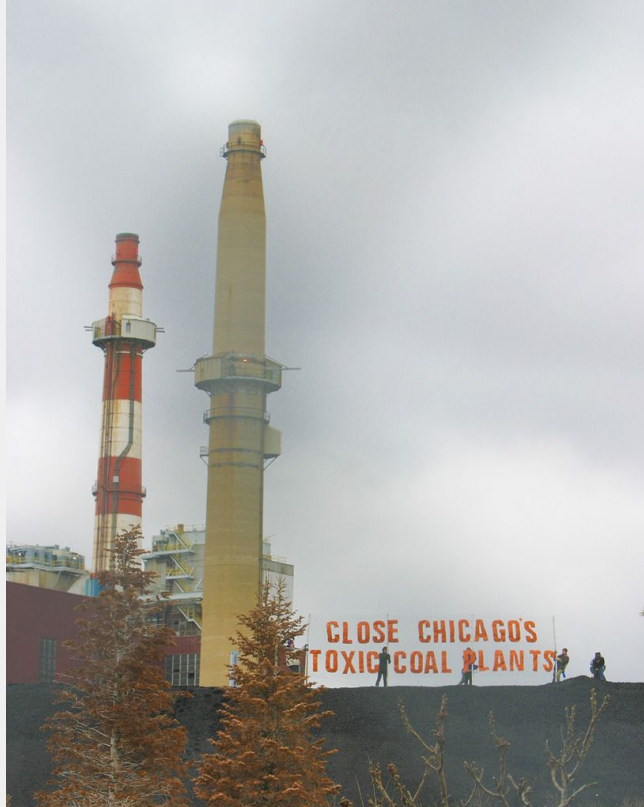
Public Transit Campaign



Clean Air Campaign

Grassroots campaigns in our 26+ years in Little Village

Crawford + Fisk Stations linked to:



40 premature deaths,
550 emergency room visits,
and **2,800** asthma attacks
every year*

*Based on a 2002 Harvard School of Public Health Study

People > Polluters



CHICAGO'S COAL-BURNING
POWER PLANTS HAVE A NEW FILTER.



HIS NAME IS PETER.

Pollution from Chicago's Fisk and Crawford coal plants causes asthma.
It's time to move Chicago beyond coal. www.beyondcoal.org



Our Fight Against Crawford



- **12 year** community struggle
- Crawford and Fisk officially stopped burning coal in 2012!

Fisk and Crawford Reuse Task Force: Process, Principles and Recommendations



Prepared by the City of
Chicago's Mayor's Fisk
and Crawford Reuse
Task Force

The Task Force has set out **nine Guiding Principles** for redevelopment of the sites, which broadly include:

- Enhancing the ability of residents and businesses to live, work and play in a healthy environment
- Prioritizing quality, living wage jobs
- Identifying and pursuing resources for redevelopment
- Recognizing existing constraints and context for the redevelopment, and
- **Encouraging collaboration of stakeholders on redevelopment, noting that it will likely lead to the best outcome for all.**

The Task Force has listed **13 specific near-term recommendations** to move redevelopment of the sites in this direction. The recommendations focus on:

- **Decommissioning and practical steps for site preparation**
- Community engagement and opportunity for public space and water access
- Marketing and future use
- Improving public sector infrastructure, and
- Immediate next steps

Demolishment & Remediation of Plant

Ensure that the Illinois' site remediation process must include **Active Public Participation**, a full and complete characterization of site contamination and a remediation that is protective of human health and the environment, now and in the future.



Who is Hilco Global?



Hilco Headquarters

5 Revere Dr Suite 206
Northbrook, IL 60062
> Get Directions

847-509-1100

Hilco Redevelopment Partners & Exchange 55 project



<https://www.hilcoredev.com/projects/exchange-55>

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/commercial-real-estate/target-open-huge-warehouse-little-village>

Hilco Timeline:

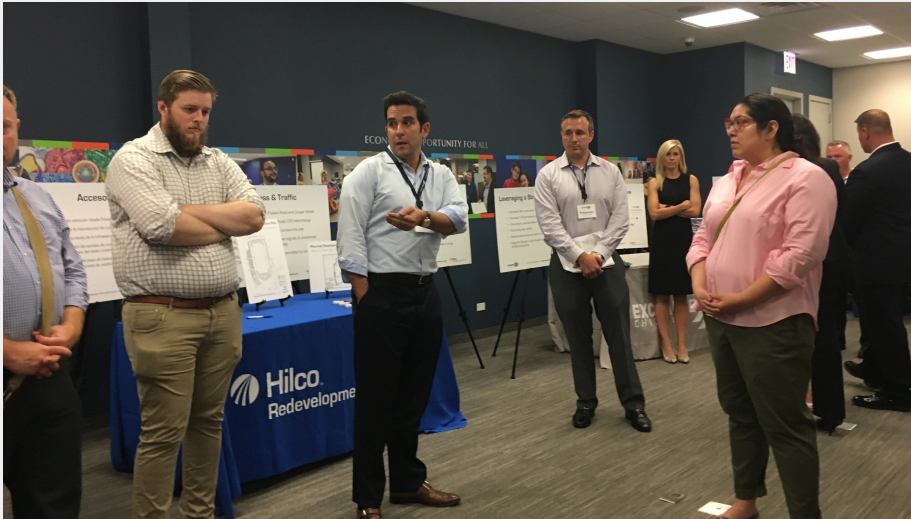


August 2018: 1 of only 2 Hilco Community Meeting- Hilco claims they will not take any public money, handouts or incentives for this project

- Hilco claims “they are doing Little Village a Favor in redeveloping the site - We have a great Work Force”
- **August 2018:** Hilco submits application for Cook Counties 6B Tax Break for a 12 year - \$19.7 tax break

What does the Tax Credit Do:

The tax break will assess the property at 10 percent of its market value for the first 10 years, 15 percent in the 11th year and 20 percent in the 12th year



Who facilitated Hilco coming to Little Village



- Donations accepted from:
- Midwest Generation \$5,000
- Hilco \$3,000
- Promised a Community Benefits Agreement and Union Jobs
- **Claimed trucks are not an issue in LV as only 3 trucks per hour come through LV at 26th & California**



Tu México, Tu Chicago!



Members of the Hilco Global and Hilco Redevelopment Partners executive teams, along with **Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar**, officially present the first class of Hilco Scholars with their scholarship to the City Colleges of Chicago.



Starting with City Colleges' Fall 2015 semester, students who graduate from CPS in Spring 2016 or after with a 3.0 GPA who test completion-ready in math and English will be able to pursue an associate degree at City Colleges of Chicago at no cost – free tuition and books.

Two students per year, pursuing an associates degree at City Colleges of Chicago Total: \$18,000 every Two years.



Hilco Global
@HilcoGlobal

Our Hilco Helpers are handing out Hilco Global-donated toys to families in Chicago today! [#hilcohelps](#)
[#CradlestoCrayons](#).



4:31 PM · Dec 10, 2018 · [Twitter Web Client](#)



22nd Ward
Aldermanic Forum
Feb. 2019

Debates

w/ [Vota Con Ganas](#)

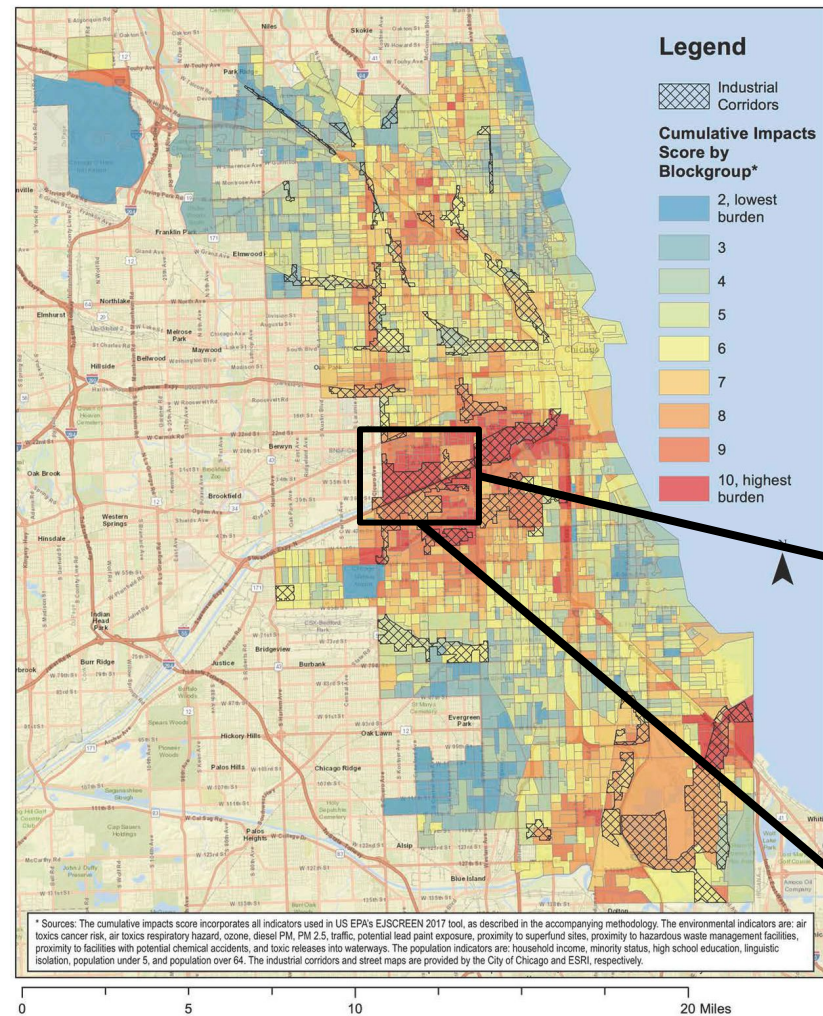
Exchange 55



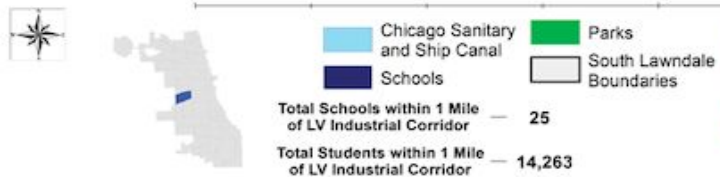
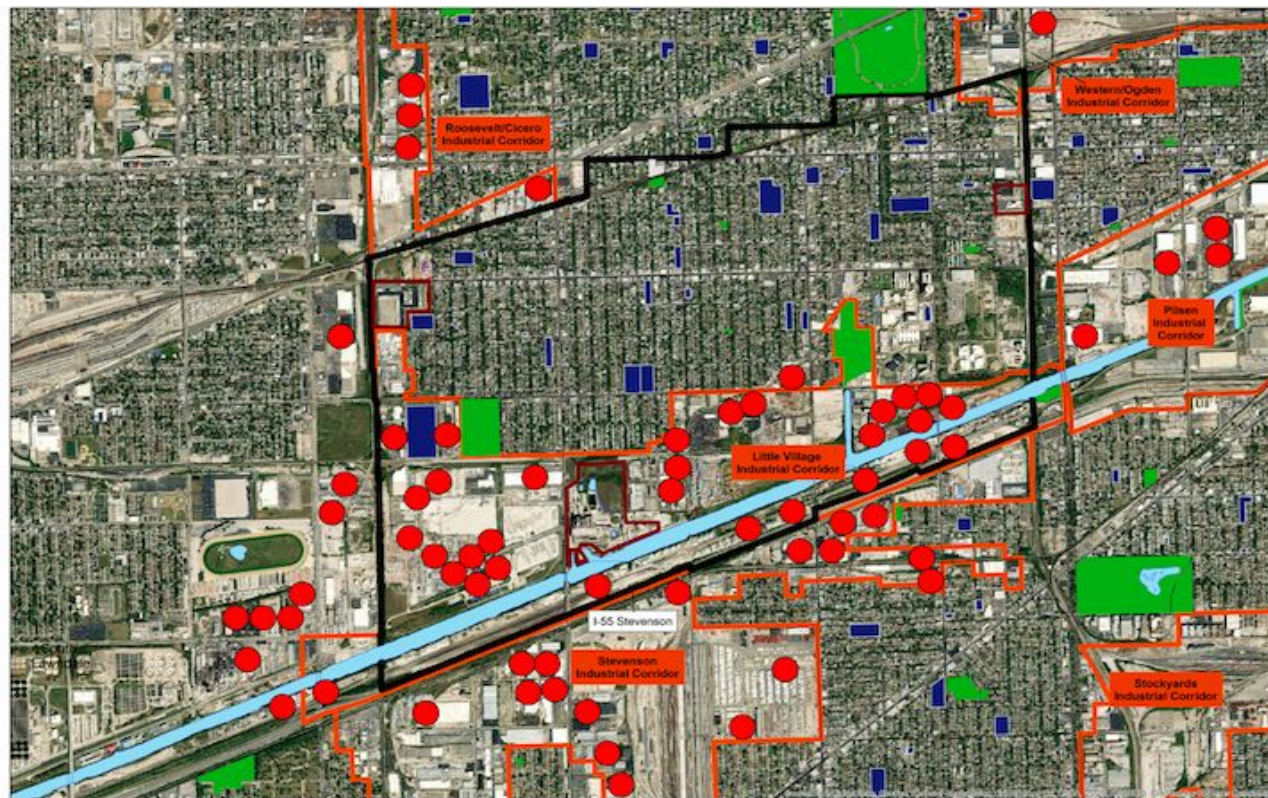
<https://www.hilcoredev.com/projects/exchange-55>

Cumulative Impact Map

- Natural Resources Defense Council in collaboration with community organizations publishes map in 2018 to demonstrate how Chicago laws need EJ reform.



Schools and Trucking, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) in South Lawndale



- 30 TDL's in Little Village / 64 on Map
- 25 Schools
- 14, 263 students



Workers Picket outside of Crawford

"Construction workers picketed Wednesday in front of the Crawford Power Generating Station in Little Village just months after the coal plant was acquired by Hilco Redevelopment Partners.

The Laborers of Local 225 protested Hilco's subcontractor, BB Enterprises, for failure to pay employees area standards for wages for asbestos abatement.

Additionally, workers say BB Enterprises is hiring recent arrivals from Puerto Rico and underpaying them to keep wages down.

"They're bringing in new people from Puerto Rico and paying them less money. That's not right, that's not fair. After what happened in Puerto Rico, it's an injustice. We're just trying to make this right," said Local 225 officer Roberto Perez.

Hilco did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



Aug. 2018

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/hoy/chicago/ct-workers-picket-the-crawford-plant-20180803-story.html>

WWJ Warehouse Facts: Working conditions

- **A "perma-temp" system**
 - Warehouse Workers for Justice estimates that 70% of Chicagoland warehouses employ temps rather than direct hires.
- **Poverty-Level jobs**
 - Although studies show a worker in the Chicagoland area needs to earn at least \$16/hr to sustain a family, most warehouse jobs pay less than \$10/hr, even after years on the job.
- **An epidemic of wage theft**
 - In surveying warehouse workers across the region, WWJ has seen many examples of short checks, unpaid overtime, workers forced to work off the clock and other abuses.
- **Discrimination and abuse**
 - Warehouse workers often battle discrimination based on gender, race and national origin.

WWJ Warehouse Facts: Working conditions

- **Lack of basic benefits**
 - Access to affordable health insurance is limited. Sick days and vacations are almost unheard-of.
- **Unsafe working conditions**
 - Warehouse workers face workplace injuries and exposure to diesel fumes.
- **Violations of workers' rights**
 - When warehouse workers attempt to form unions or report illegal activity by their employer, they often suffer illegal retaliation.

All this information is from Warehouse Workers for Justice:

<http://www.ww4j.org/crisis.html>

IEPA & CDPH public meeting

City Tells Worried Little Village Residents To 'Limit Outdoor Activities' As Crews Demolish Old Coal Plant

Neighbors want the air quality monitored as a developer works to remediate and demolish the site to make way for a controversial one-million-square-foot warehouse. But the city says monitoring isn't required.

AUG 7, 2019 9:49AM CDT

PILSEN, LITTLE VILLAGE, WEST LOOP



Mauricio Peña @MauricioPena

Pilsen, Little Village and West Loop reporter
mauricio@blockclubchi.org
[See more](#)



'David Graham, an assistant commissioner with the city's Department of Public Health, told nearly 100 neighbors "kids and people with breathing problems" and people who "are sensitive to dust" should "limit outdoor activity" as work is completed on the site.'

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2019/08/07/city-tells-worried-little-village-residents-to-limit-outdoor-activities-as-crews-demolish-old-coal-power-plant/>

Hilco's Propaganda



Dear Neighbor,

Two years ago, Hilco Redevelopment Partners acquired and started the demolition of the former Crawford power plant. We know how important it was to close the old power plant seven years ago which is why we are working hard to deliver a responsible new development to replace what still stands today. The new development will bring new jobs and opportunity to the Little Village neighborhood.

Today, we are excited to report that we are nearly finished removing all of the asbestos from the buildings. Over the next several months, demolition activities will continue to make progress on the remaining power plant buildings.


Protecting the health and safety of the Little Village community and local workers is very important and our top priority. That's why we have watering trucks, water cannons, misting systems, fence liners, and other efforts on site to help control dust generated by demolition or construction activities on site.

Our goal is to finish demolition this year making way for an environmentally friendly development that will feature improved community access along Pulaski Road, the planting of 680 new trees, naturalized landscaping improvements, a roof that accommodates solar panels, and infrastructure to support electric vehicles. We hope to secure a tenant for the building soon and will work with them and partners in the Little Village community to host job fairs.

We look forward to continuing to work with the community to bring opportunity back to this dormant section of Pulaski Road. For regular project updates, information about job fairs, construction progress, community events, or to ask any questions, please visit our project website at www.crawfordstation.com.

Thank you.



 **Hilco**
Redevelopment Partners

For more information, visit www.crawfordstation.com



Querido Vecino/a,

Hace dos años, Hilco Redevelopment Partners compró y comenzó la demolición de la antigua planta eléctrica llamada Crawford. Sabemos lo importante que fue cerrar la antigua planta de energía hace siete años, por eso estamos trabajando duro para ofrecer un nuevo desarrollo responsable para reemplazar lo que está hoy. El nuevo desarrollo traerá nuevos empleos y oportunidades al vecindario de La Villita.

Hoy, nos complace informar que casi hemos terminado de eliminar todo el asbesto de los edificios. Durante los próximos meses, las actividades de demolición continuarán progresando en los edificios restantes de la planta eléctrica.

Proteger la salud y la seguridad de la comunidad de La Villita y de los trabajadores locales es muy importante y nuestra prioridad principal. Es por eso que tenemos camiones de riego, cañones de agua, sistemas de nebulización, revestimientos de cercas y otros esfuerzos en el sitio para ayudar a controlar el polvo generado por las actividades de demolición o construcción en el sitio.

Nuestro objetivo es terminar la demolición este año, dando paso a un desarrollo respetuoso con el medio ambiente que contará con un mejor acceso comunitario a lo largo de la Calle Pulaski, la plantación de 680 árboles nuevos, mejorar el paisaje de naturaleza, un techo adecuado para paneles solares e infraestructura para cargar vehículos eléctricos. Esperamos asegurar un inquilino para el edificio pronto y trabajaremos con ellos y socios en la comunidad de La Villita para organizar ferias de empleo.

Esperamos continuar trabajando con la comunidad para traer oportunidades de regreso a esta sección inactiva de la Calle Pulaski. Para recibir información del proyecto, fechas de ferias de empleo, progreso de la construcción, eventos de la comunidad o para hacer preguntas, visite nuestro sitio web del proyecto en www.crawfordstation.com.

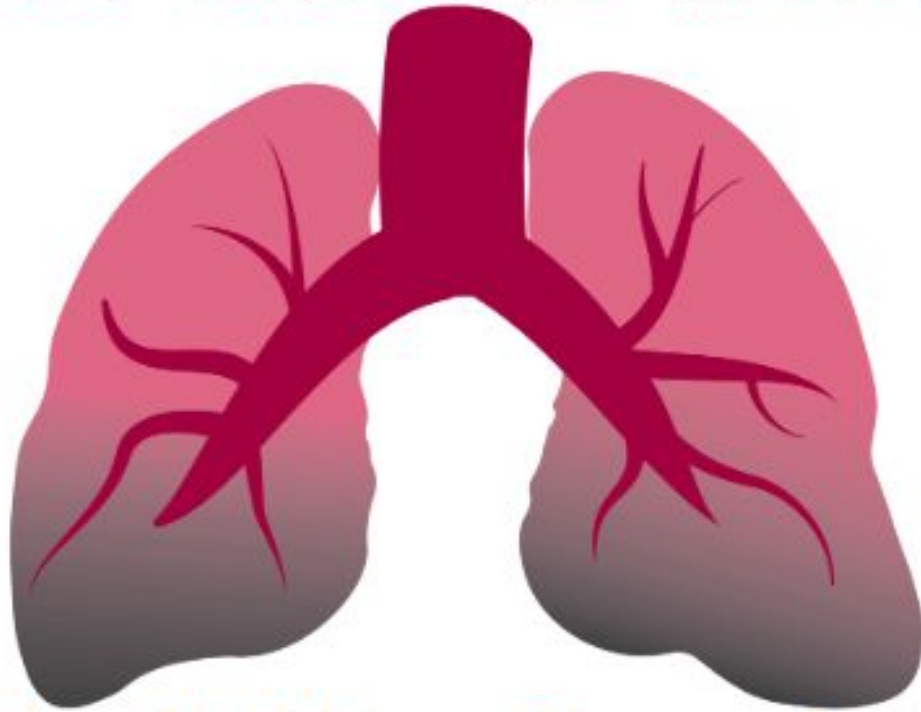
Gracias.



 **Hilco**
Redevelopment Partners

Para más informaciones, visita www.crawfordstation.com

HELL NO TO HILCO



*Poster
deliveries can
be arranged!*

#LaVillitaRespira

From 2016 - Today: LVEJO Partners up with local HS to conduct Truck Traffic counts in Dirty Diesel Corridor that the community helped identify

In 2016, LVEJO in partnership with the Little Village Lawndale High School began conducting truck counting to understand the state of our traffic,

Intersection	2018-2019 school year	2017-2018 school year	2016-2017 school year
26th & Kostner	0.67 trucks/minute	1.3 trucks/minute	1.5 trucks/minute
31st & Kostner	1.3 trucks/minute	1.47 trucks/minute	1.3 trucks/minute
31st & Pulaski	<u>2.09 trucks/minute</u>	No Data	No Data

Pulaski & 31st St. were added after seeing high levels of PM 2.5 at the corner of Pulaski & 31st St. Also as a way to assess current traffic patterns before the construction of the 1 mil. Sq. ft warehouse that Hilco is trying to build

Why LVEJO does air monitoring?

- Little Village residents suffer from high incidents of asthma and diesel-powered semi trailer trucks have a high presence in the community.
 - The Hilco redevelopment project would only increase the particulate matter that affects us all but further contributes to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses which can lead to premature deaths.
- Crawford Coal Plant is the first decommissioned facility within city boundaries and Hilco has refuse to install air monitors.
- Little Village youth are at the front lines of this proposed plan with 8,000 students attending schools in Little Village within one mile of the former coal power plant.

LVEJO doing Mobile Air monitoring



SA/SA Updates:

Shared Air Shared Action Project 2017-2018

A partnership with
Kansas State University

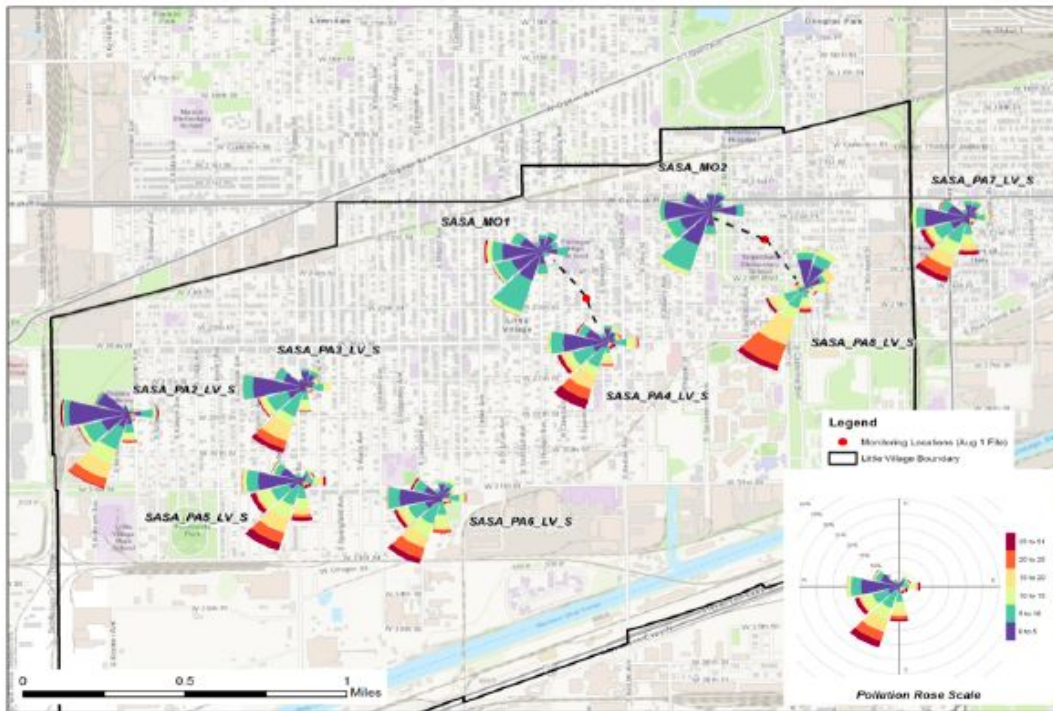
Communities involved:

- Little Village
- Southeast Side
- Altgeld Gardens
- South Loop

Ambient air pollutant measurements in Little Village 6/1/2017 - 8/10/2017

Pollution roses for PurpleAir and Met One NPM sensors in Little Village.

Colors indicate different concentration bins, as shown in the pollution rose scale on the lower right.

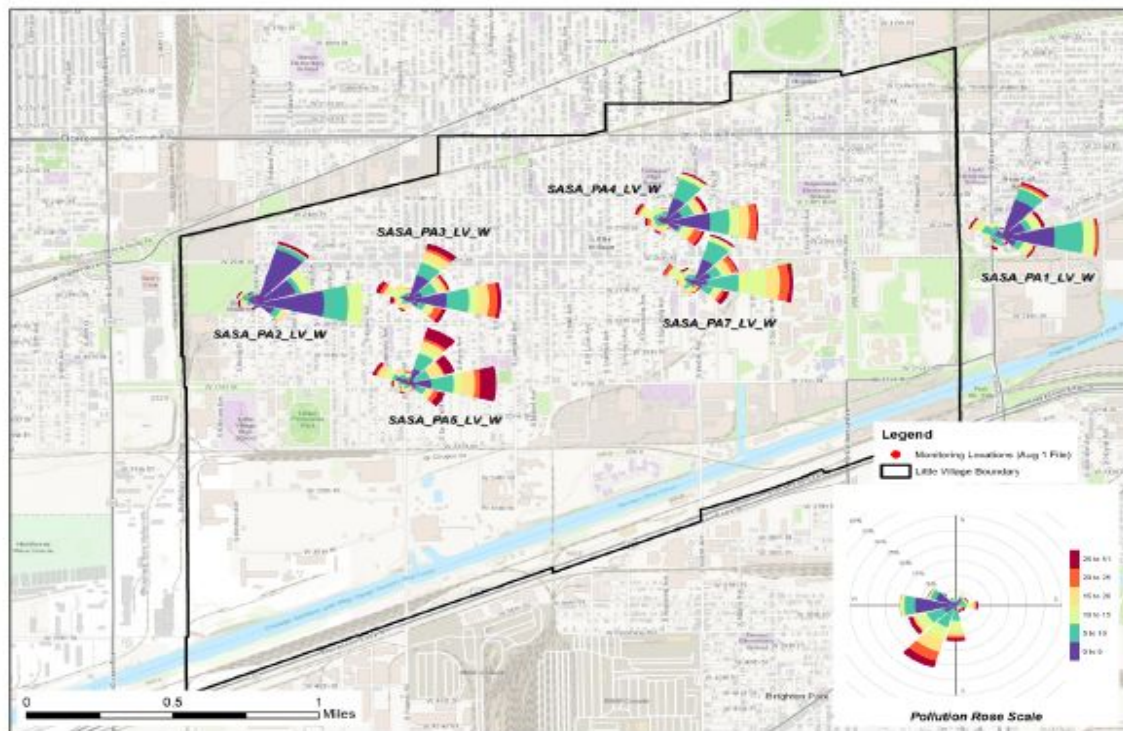


LVEJO SA/SA Updates

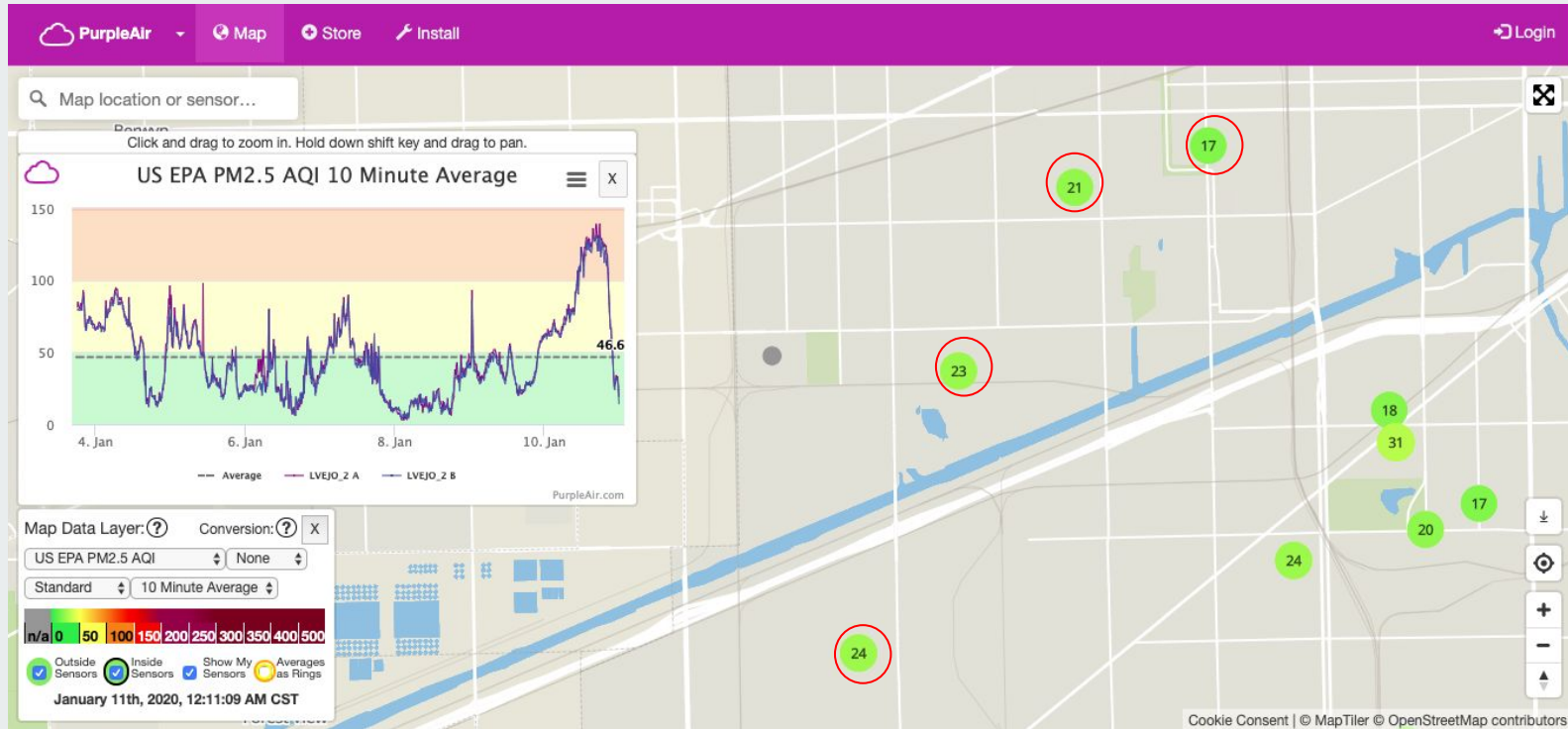
Ambient air pollutant measurements in Little Village 3/11/2018 – 3/31/2018

Pollution roses for PurpleAir and Met One NPM sensors in Little Village.

Colors indicate different concentration bins, as shown in the pollution rose scale on the lower right.



Purple Air



Con: Our Experience with Hilco



Mr. Reynaldo “Rey” Grimaldo’s Passing:

Worker Falls To His Death In ‘Tragic Accident’ At Crawford Coal Plant In Little Village

Hilco Development Partners are redeveloping the site into a controversial one-million-square-foot distribution center.

DEC 31, 2019 3:35PM CST

PILSEN, LITTLE VILLAGE, WEST LOOP



Mauricio Peña @MauricioPena

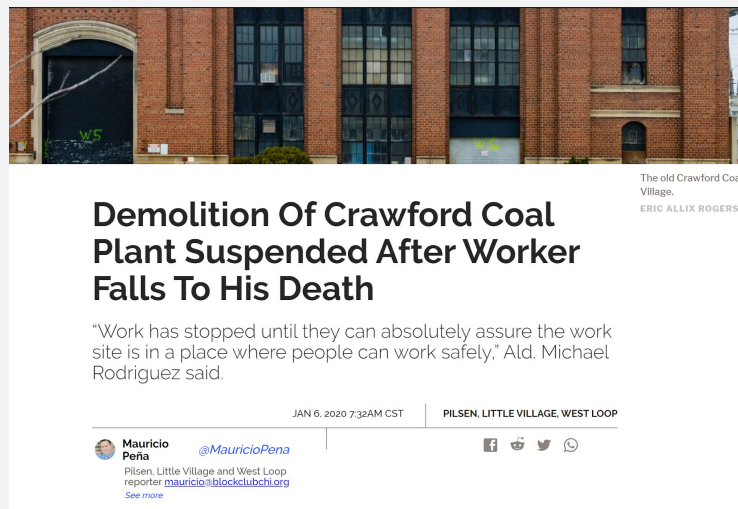
Pilsen, Little Village and West Loop reporter

mauricio@blockclubchi.org

[See more](#)



Mr. Reynaldo “Rey” Grimaldo’s Passing:



Target (TARGET) Warehouse

Like Amazon & Walmart warehouse workers, Target employees are also trying to unionize.

- **Target Warehouse Faces Its First Public Union Drive:** 'They treat us like robots and we feel like prisoners.' By **Lauren Kaori Gurley – Feb 19 2020**
 - A Target warehouse facility in northern New Jersey is set to become **the first** in the company's **nearly 60-year history** to face a public union campaign.
 - Union organizers wrote a letter to Target's CEO and chief human resources officer, demanding it enter a neutrality agreement with the union.
 - If the union drive is successful, it could reverberate beyond Target across the industry, emboldening workers at other large e-commerce companies to organize.
 - The company has a record of **circulating anti-union videos** during previous union campaigns, in particular, one in 2014 that told workers that **a union would change the company's "fast, fun, and friendly culture."**

Shared Struggles with SE Side of Chicago



**Stop General Iron From Moving to Chicago's
Forgotten East Side! We Deserve Clean Air Too!**



2,114 have signed. Let's get to
2,500!



Mia F signed 6 minutes ago



Margaret Lazarovits signed 18
minutes ago

Thanks to your support this petition
has a chance at winning! We only
need 369 more signatures to reach
the next goal - can you help?

<http://chnq.it/2JNpsLFSGH>

Hilco sends notice of implosion on Thurs. April 9, 2020

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY NOTICE DEMOLITION ALERT Saturday, April 11, 2020 – 8:00 A.M.

As part of the ongoing demolition and construction activity at the former Crawford Coal Plant, located at 3501 South Pulaski Road, an implosion permit has been issued to demolish the concrete stack onsite. The implosion is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at 8:00 a.m.

How will this impact me?

Beginning at 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, restrictions will be put in place in and around the area. Alternate routes will be communicated through road signage and onsite authorities. Pulaski Road will reopen on restricted access around 8:15 a.m., with access to all surrounding areas fully restored by 9:00 a.m.

As with all demolition activity, the health and safety of the workers and local community is a top priority. There will be oversight management and extensive dust control and mitigation efforts, including a variety of watering techniques such as water trucks, water cannons and direct-drive misting systems. In addition to these measures, the Chicago Fire Department will provide CPO engines for additional safety and dust suppression support.

How will I know when the implosion will begin? Will there be an alert system? How will I know it's over?

Two long sirens, audible by those in the immediate area, will sound at 7:58 a.m. to signal a two-minute countdown. The blast will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will last for 5 to 7 seconds. Professionals from Controlled Demolition, Inc. will then inspect the demolition area and sound a prolonged audible signal to designate an "all clear."

What road closures can I expect?

The Pulaski Rd. closure and closure of all intersections between 33rd St and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal will commence at approximately 7:55 am and conclude at approximately 8:15 am. Pulaski Rd. from 33rd St. to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal will be completely closed for roughly twenty (20) minutes. The intersections of Pulaski Rd. and O'Connor Rd, 35th Pl and 36th St. will be completely closed during the same time frame.

Where can I direct my questions?

Questions or comments can be submitted to Hilcoinfo@Hilcoglobal.com.

The restricted area is outlined in red in the below map.



These activities are closed to the public.

CRAWFORD
STATION

Home

History

Community Updates ▾

Fact Sheets ▾

Newsroom

Team

Contact Us

Community Engagement

You are here: / Home / Community Engagement

105. Friday, January 24, 2020 Update to "Current Site Activity" and "Community/ Public Meetings" on www.crawfordstation.com

106. Thursday, January 30, 2020 Hilco Redevelopment Partners participates at the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC) January Breakfast Meeting

107. Friday, January 31, 2020 Update to "Current Site Activity" and "Community/ Public Meetings" on www.crawfordstation.com

108. Friday, February 7, 2020 Update to "Current Site Activity" and "Community/ Public Meetings" on www.crawfordstation.com

109. Friday, February 14, 2020 Update to "Current Site Activity" and "Community/ Public Meetings" on www.crawfordstation.com

110. Saturday, February 22, 2020 Update to "Current Site Activity" and "Community/ Public Meetings" on www.crawfordstation.com

111. Wednesday, February 26, 2020 Update to "Current Site Activity" and "Community/ Public Meetings" on www.crawfordstation.com

TOTAL 111 Outreach Events

<http://www.crawfordstation.com/community-public-meetings/>

Update on social media push to stop implosion

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)

April 10 · 🌐

!!! IMPORTANT PLEASE READ !!! Despite efforts of activists and community members, the demolition of a concrete stack through implosion will happen at the Crawford Coal Plant Site TOMORROW Saturday April 11th at 8:00am.

Little Village Residents, PLEASE stay indoors and close all windows. Only go outside in case of an emergency. Hoping that you all are staying as safe as possible at this time.

LVEJO calls on the Gov. Pritzker, Mayor Lightfoot, Commissioner Arwady, & Ald. Rodriguez (22 Ward) to stop implosion!

! ! ! ! ! !

**LITTLE VILLAGE RESIDENTS ARE
HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO
CONTRACTING COVID-19 FOR SEVERAL
REASONS, A MAJOR ONE BEING AIR
POLLUTION.
WE ARE WORRIED THE DEMOLITION OF
THE FORMER CRAWFORD COAL PLANT
WILL FURTHER EXACERBATE PUBLIC
HEALTH DISPARITIES IN OUR
COMMUNITY.**

LVEJO  #LaVillitaRespira

Call/ Email / Tag on social media!

! ! ! ! ! !

SCRIPT:
Hello, my name is _____, and I'm (a resident / or an ally) of the Little Village community. I'm calling to express my concern of Hilco Redevelopment Partners continuing to demolish the old Crawford Coal Plant on S. Pulaski Rd and W. 35th St during a pandemic. Air pollution has been linked to higher Coronavirus death rates and as an elected official you have the power to halt this demolition process.

LVEJO  #LaVillitaRespira

Call/ Email / Tag on social media!

! ! ! ! ! !

Jay Robert "J.B." Pritzker,
Governor, State of Illinois / Gobernador,
estado de Illinois Chicago: 312-814-2121 |
Springfield: 217-782-6830 | Social Media /
Redes sociales: @GovPritzker

Lori Lightfoot,
Mayor, City of Chicago / Alcaldesa de la
Ciudad de Chicago | Call / Llaman al 311 |
Social Media / Redes sociales:
@ChicagosMayor

LVEJO  #LaVillitaRespira

Call/ Email / Tag on social media!

! ! ! ! ! !

DR. ALLISON ARWADY,
COMMISSIONER, CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH / COMISIONADA, DEPARTAMENTO
DE SALUD PUBLICA DE CHICAGO |
ALLISON.ARWADY@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG |
SOCIAL MEDIA / REDES SOCIALES:
@CHIPUBLICHEALTH

MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ,
ALDERMAN / CONCEJAL, 22ND WARD/DISTRITO
MICHAEL.RODRIGUEZ@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG |
(773) 762-1771 | SOCIAL MEDIA / REDES SOCIALES:
@RODRIGUEZF0R22

LVEJO  #LaVillitaRespira

Call/ Email / Tag on social media!

Social media push on April 10, 2020

Is a Demolition of an Old Coal Plant Essential Work?

The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) has learned that Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP), via an email sent to community leaders late Thursday (also available on crawfordstation.com), will be demolishing the smokestacks this weekend (April 11, 2020). The organization has questioned whether the continuation of the demolition of the former Crawford Coal Plant should be considered essential work during a pandemic. Little Village residents are highly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 for several reasons, a major one being air pollution. We are worried the demolition will further exacerbate public health disparities in our community. Numerous publications have linked air pollution to higher Coronavirus death rates!

Implosion of smokestack on April 11, 2020



Photo Credit: Alejandro Reyes

On April 11, 2020 in the midsts of COVID-19 a respiratory pandemic, Hilco demolished the Crawford Smokestack with little to no heads up to the community. Their demolition plan didn't go as planned and a cloud of debris, dust and toxic particles blanketed over Little Village and the surrounding neighborhoods.

**#HellNoHilco #FueraHilco
#LaVillitaRespira**

Ald. M. Rodriguez Response



Alderperson Michael D. Rodriguez

April 11 · 🌐

At 8 am this morning, as part of their redevelopment project, Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP) imploded the standing smoke stack at the former Crawford Power Plant located at 35th Street and Pulaski in the 22nd Ward. The implosion caused a large plume of dust to drift outside the site. Shortly after the implosion, I surveyed the surrounding area and confirmed that dust had settled in the immediate area. HRP representatives had previously reassured me that all dust would be contained to the implosion site, but unfortunately, the dust spread into our community and it is simply unacceptable. Any company or corporation working in our communities is expected to comply not only with federal, state, and local policies, but also carry out their efforts with the best interest of the community in mind.

"The amount of advance notice was also inadequate. I had requested HRP to inform residents in the immediate area of the implosion via letters in both English and Spanish. Unfortunately, those letters were not delivered. This came to my attention on Friday morning and I strongly advised HRP to hand-drop letters. I subsequently posted the official notice of the implosion from the City of Chicago to my office's social media account. Clear and timely communication about actions that have an environmental impact on our residents should be a top priority and I am committed to doing my part to ensure this moving forward."

Passing of community elder

Don Fernando Cantú was a 78-year-old grandfather & homeowner who lived three blocks from the former Crawford Coal Plant in La Villita.

On Saturday, April 11, he went to his backyard to tend to his garden, and by Sunday, Don Cantú tragically passed away.

He had asthma and COPD, but his kids say he lived a normal life. They believe his respiratory condition was aggravated by the cloud of toxic dust that came from the implosion demolition of the century-old smokestack by Hilco during the coronavirus pandemic.

Artist credit: Juliana Pino



Community Demands

1. There must be immediate and comprehensive public disclosure of the mix of toxins and materials that made up the polluted dust cloud
2. Hilco must take responsibility for all the costs of cleanup, testing the dust and covering medical costs
3. The City of Chicago must immediately release guidance to residents on how to safely clean and handle this dust that has entered homes
4. The city must monitor particulate matter at the fence line of the development site
5. The release of air pollution beyond the boundaries of the property likely is a violation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act
6. There must be an immediate suspension of all demolition activities across Chicago
7. High quality protective masks must be distributed to those in affected areas, including the community incarcerated at Cook County Jail
8. Cook County must rescind the \$19.7 Million dollar tax break Hilco received in January of 2019

April 12, 2020

Mayor Lightfoot and City Officials Press Conference



LIVESTREAM
TO BEGIN SHORTLY

74,192 Views

Chicago Mayor's Office was live.

April 12 · 🌐

UNACCEPTABLE: Mayor Lightfoot joins the Public Health Department to address yesterday's demolition and the resulting plume of dust at the former Crawford Coal Plant in Little Village.

<https://www.facebook.com/350000495720259/videos/652777875288966/>

Hilco's Response to the Implosion



111 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60609
www.hilcoredev.com

*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CLEAN-UP SERVICES AND SUPPORT RELATED TO THE CRAWFORD STATION DEMOLITION ***

April 29, 2020

Dear Neighbor,

We sincerely apologize for the disruption and concern caused by the demolition of the concrete stack by our former contractor at the shuttered Crawford Power Station on Saturday, April 11. As a real estate redevelopment company, we take pride in our track record of exceeding expectations for all phases in our redevelopment projects and this unintended outcome is not acceptable.

The health, safety and welfare of the Little Village community is of paramount importance to us as we continue demolition of the former Crawford Power Station and clear the way for the construction of a new state-of-the-art, job-creating logistics center in Little Village.

On April 27, 2020, the City of Chicago released validated test results from samples taken to monitor potential environmental impacts from the smokestack implosion at the former Crawford Generating Station on April 11, 2020 (available at www.chicago.gov/CrawfordStationResponse). Testing was conducted by the Chicago Department of Public Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and validated by a non-governmental agency. According to the City of Chicago's April 27, 2020 press release, "officials believe that the test results, which included analysis of particulate matter, dust composition, building debris and soil composition, show that there is no apparent health risk to the surrounding community."

We are fully committed to alleviating community concerns which have been, and will continue to be, central to our mission to revitalize this historically challenged site.

As part of our commitment to your area, we are providing several clean up and support services, free of charge. Enclosed within, please find:

- A voucher for a free window washing by Crystal Clear Window Washing Janitorial Service Co.
- A voucher for free vehicle washing by Magic Car Wash;
- A voucher for an air furnace filter and free installation by Patriots HVAC Corp., for your home;
- And four masks as part of our ongoing support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, we will continue to provide regular street sweeping measures in the Little Village neighborhood for the remainder of the demolition.

We look forward to continuing to work with the community to bring opportunity back to this dormant section of Pulaski Road. For additional information, or to ask any questions, please reach out to us at HRPInfo@hilcoglobal.com or (312) 796-6281.

For regular project updates, construction progress and community events, please visit our project website at www.crawfordstation.com.

Sincerely,

Roberto Perez, CEO
Hilco Redevelopment Partners, LLC



"We are fully committed to alleviating community concerns which have been, and will continue to be, central to our mission to revitalize this historically challenging site."

Crawford Station Response

The health and safety of Chicago's communities, particularly our most vulnerable residents, is the City's highest priority. This is why the significant dust emission resulting from the scheduled implosion of the smokestack on the site of the former Crawford Generating Station by Hilco Redevelopment Partners and their subcontractors was completely unacceptable. Since the incident on April 11, 2020 the City of Chicago has responded rapidly and aggressively to remediate the situation, inform and engage residents in the surrounding community and hold the companies accountable.

On April 15, Mayor Lightfoot issued a letter to Hilco, demanding swift action to clean up the area around the Crawford site, including addressing any deposited dust from the implosion of the Stack.

Hilco has agreed to or already taken action on the following:

- Fully cooperate with City of Chicago inquiries for additional information regarding the demolition of the site;
- Conduct private street sweeping from 31st to 33rd, Pulaski Rd. to Lawndale St. following the implosion;
- Work in close coordination with Alderman Michael Rodriguez to drive through the residential streets around the perimeter to assess the damage and begin to compile a list of mitigation needs;
- Reimburse the City of Chicago for additional street sweeping measures;
- Send out personnel door to door to discuss clean up needs with residents, and perform remedial services, free of charge, including window and vehicle washing; and
- Distribute thousands of masks to the community.

We are working to conduct a full review and investigation into this matter and are demanding a detailed description not only of the events that occurred the morning of April 11, 2020, but leading up to that date and immediately following.

The City is committed to keeping its residents updated on new information related to this incident in the days and weeks to come. As such, we have posted a number of relevant materials here and will continue to update this site as our review moves forward.

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/hilco/home.html>

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

The website and press releases speak to "Testing was conducted by two governmental agencies – the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), and CDPH's data has been validated by a non-governmental agency."

- We would like to know who is the non-governmental agency who performed the validation of the data collected.

There is also no information on who the third-party environmental consultant is and what qualifications they have for this work. Do they have expertise in performing specialized work involved for local air quality analysis from data collection to data analysis to data interpretation in order to assess the air pollutant exposures and associated health risks to community residents using appropriate scientific procedures and protocols?

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

On the Cities Crawford website, there is reference to the environmental sampling that was performed. As a community rooted in community science for over 20 years, we understand the importance of developing sampling protocols and associated Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QQA/QC) protocols as part of any comprehensive environmental characterization action.

- There is no documentation of rationale for sampling locations selected for any of the environmental media samples collected. In addition, there is no documentation of the training and qualifications of the personnel who conducted the sampling in our community. Furthermore, there is no reference to how any of the dust, air or soil sampling was planned for to ensure that wind speed and wind direction on the day of implosion, background soil samples and other important factors were considered in the environmental sampling plan and these factors are used to ensure that hot spots (i.e., locations with higher concentrations of pollutants) in our community could be identified and sampled. **Without this information, there is a possibility that hotspots in the community may have been missed, resulting in underestimation of environmental media (air, dust, soil) pollutant concentrations and associated community exposures, and health risks.**

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

Although the City of Chicago asserts that the dust is safe, the data on the city's Crawford web site does not provide a full elemental composition breakdown of the 50+ metals of the dust. Given the fact that the site was a former coal-powered power plant, heavy metals (e.g., Lead, Arsenic, Mercury), higher molecular-weight persistent organic chemicals such as Polyaromatic Nuclear Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Dioxins may be of concern.

- **Soil samples were collected on the 13th of April, two days after the implosion on the 11th and after a rainstorm.**
- Dust samples did not include Mercury as there was not enough samples to use
 - The analysis shows only one sample was taken from each location.
- Why were two samples, minimal requirement for sampling, not taken, per site? Having two samples allows you to compare to each other and gives a screening level assessment.
- What is the background data that was used to compare soil levels with specific levels elsewhere in the city? **media (air, dust, soil) pollutant concentrations and associated community exposures, and health risks.**

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

On the DUST table of the cities Crawford website, the city states:

“ Half of the dust samples taken in the vicinity of the Crawford Site, and in the direct path of the dust cloud, contained small amounts of lead and all of the samples contained small amounts of barium. These amounts are very low and pose little health risk to residents. For reference, the US EPA standard for lead in bare soil in residential play areas is 400 ppm. There is no dust or soil standard for barium, but it is found in most soils in concentrations between 15 and 3,500 ppm. No other metals or asbestos were detected.”

Lead	90- 3500	10	10	13 - 1910	57	57
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- **Yet on the table provided, the lead levels results are as high as 3,500 ppm.**

This is quite concerning and no plan or conversation on this has been had or made public on how to handle.

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

- What is the carcinogenic chemical load of dust? What is the respiratory health risk associated with the dust that blanketed the community? What are the potential short-term and long-term health effects?

To be able to answer these questions, particulate matter (PM) samples should be speciated and chemical composition of the PM samplers should be determined using proper sample collection and analytical procedures. This is part of complete source characterization, which is the first step, in assessing exposures and health risks to the community.

- The City of Chicago web site shows that NIOSH 0500 method was used for Particulate Matter samples. This method determines the total dust concentration to which a worker is exposed. They sampled air for four hours using a low flow rate sampling pump (2.5 L/min) in each sampling event and they collected a total of five samples. All samples had non-detects (meaning concentrations measured was below the detection limit) for total dust.
- **Only 5 samples on limited days were taken using the NIOSH method**

This is not a proper sampling method for outdoor air quality assessment due to its operational characteristics (low flow rate and low sample volume). This is why it is specifically recommended for occupational exposure assessment for total dust, but not for environmental exposure assessment for particulate matter in air.

Again, we ask, who and what was the plan developed for the sampling?

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

In the first press conference on the Site, the Commissioner for CDPH stated "SUMMA canisters that are used for air sampling were installed by CDPH on April 14 and looked at organic compounds and dust particles, with additional air monitors being installed to account for sustained readings over the next several weeks."

- **Only four samples of Volatile Organic Compounds were taken, three days after the implosion**

Sampling with SUMA canisters are performed only for measuring volatile organic compounds in air (not for dust). The city corrected this on the report by stating "SUMMA canister air tests did reveal low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's), and CDPH is currently reviewing these results with experts to better understand potential sources and impacts while comparing them to background levels found in the air, both in Little Village and across the city."

- **PM 2.5 and 10 were tested for at 7 locations but the resulting report was not shared.**

We demand the City disclose where the additional monitors are placed to assess air quality in the neighborhood over time, what instruments they are using, what pollutants they are measuring, and what the frequency of sampling is.

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

Given these findings, we do not believe the current actions or fines are appropriate given the lack of information.

- There should be no sweeping of dust until the composition of dust characterization. When they sweep the streets, they will suspend the particles and those particles will become airborne, causing additional exposure to airborne particles. They could employ dust suppression as they are sweeping the streets. But, this needs to be done after careful study to ensure that the residents are not further exposed to settled dust.
- Monitoring needs to include both dust and air for metals dioxins PAHs and furans and possibly PCBs.
- All sampling and measurements should be reviewed by specialists our community trusts.
- All the data in raw form as reported by the laboratory should be made public.
- A six-month moratorium on implosion demolitions citywide, pending the creation of a specific implosion permitting process with updated guidelines, is **NOT ENOUGH**. The complete disregard for human life in Little Village during a pandemic speaks to the rampant environmental racism conditions the Departments within the City of Chicago processes continue to exacerbate. A complete overhaul of city policies and procedures to include Environmental Justice considerations must be done.

Concerns regarding testing done by City and US EPA

Given these findings, we do not believe the current actions or fines are appropriate given the lack of information.

- Although structural demolition activity remains on hold at the Crawford site, while the clean-up efforts take place we continue to demand to see the environmental and technical reports on the conditions of the building. Hilco, its Contractors and the City have not shown they can be trusted in making decisions on this site. Due to the dilapidated nature of the site, we want to ensure steps being proposed are the correct ones.
- Although Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP) is finally sending information to the community, three years after the start of the project, we do not feel it is in the best interest of the community. HRP is using the same science we are questioning as a community to take actions that may be harming us more than helping us. While our community appreciates the \$250,00 donation to local clinics for the "Historical Health issues in LV". This is only a drop in the bucket to what may be a lifetime of health issues in LV.
- We demand the City work with the county to reverse the \$19.7 million tax break from HRP.
- We demand that the City force HRP to vacate the land and donate it to the City for redevelopment.

LVEJO Submits Electronic Signatures on April 29, 2020

Implosion Devastates Little Village During COVID19 Pandemic



Victory

This petition made change with 19,524 supporters!



State of Illinois: Implosion
Devastates Little Village During...

An email was sent to elected and appointed representatives in every level of government agencies mentioned on the petition. //

Se envió un correo electrónico a los representantes elegidos y nombrados en todos los niveles de las agencias gubernamentales mencionadas en la petición.

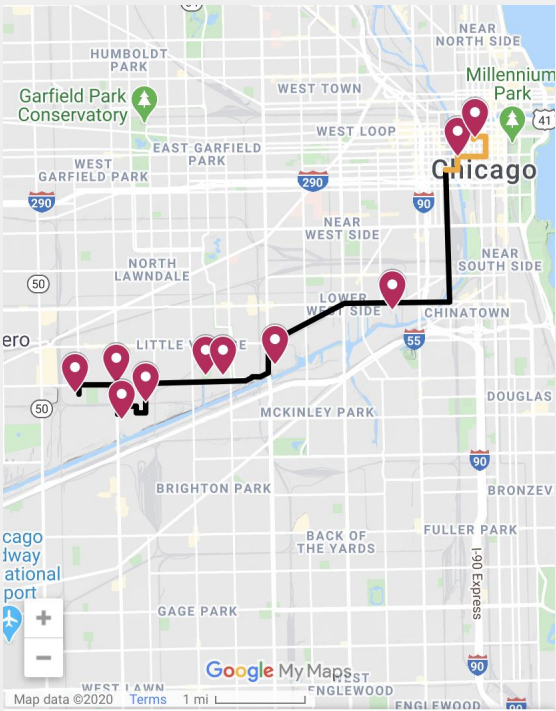


Little Village Environmental Justice Organization started this petition to STATE OF ILLINOIS and 4 others

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 4/12/2020 (ESPAÑOL abajo)

Earth Day to May Day Chicago Coalition

Right to Breathe / Right to Live Caravan on April 22, 2020



Earth Day Caravan Calls On City To Tighten Environmental Rules After Little Village Dust Disaster

About 70 cars traveled from Little Village to City Hall as part of the Right to Breathe caravan for Earth Day.

Earth Day to May Day Caravan

APR 22, 2020 3:53PM CDT

PILSEN, LITTLE VILLAGE, WEST LOOP



Mauricio Peña @MauricioPena



Little Village Residents!

We are collecting testimonials, images, and videos from the Crawford smokestack implosion that took place on Saturday, April 11, 2020. If you would like to share those with us, please email info@lvejo.org



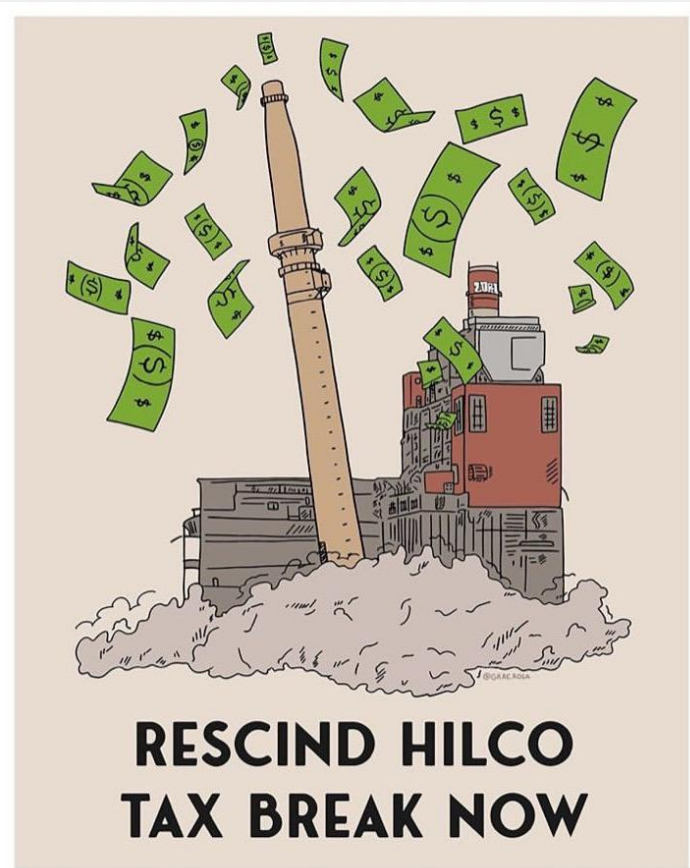
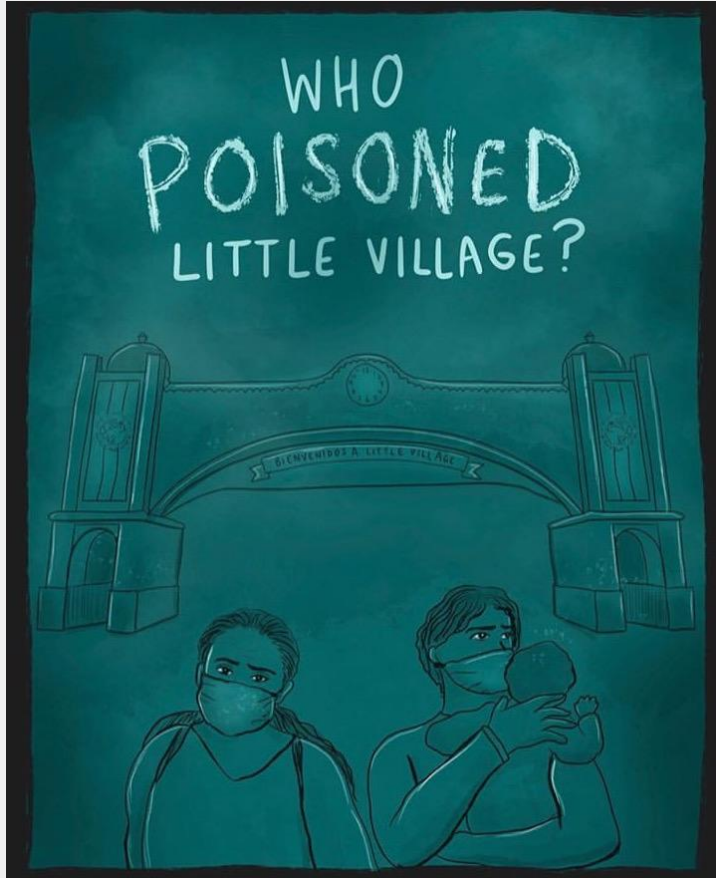
LVEJO

Photo Credit: Alejandro Reyes

#HellNoHilco

#LaVillitaRespira

For the People Artist Collective



For the People Artist Collective



IL Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

Online:
<http://bit.ly/pollutioncomplaint>

City of Chicago

Call **311** or use
the **CHI 311** app.

- Share as much detailed information: date and time of odor/nuisance/observed air or diesel emissions, location intersection of streets);
- Take photos and videos and share any evidence, documentation, logs, etc. of pollution that you could provide;
- *Complaints can be anonymous but if you provide the IEPA with information on how to reach you, they can keep you updated on the investigation. In addition, they may need more information from you in order to conduct an adequate investigation.



#LaVillitaRespira



For more information contact
etovar@lvejo.org or 773.762.6991

Step by Step
Guide on how to
submit
complaints
[available!](#)

Why reporting is so important!

- “Little Village was hosting the freshmen games at our site on Saturday September 14, 2019. It turns out there was this big cloud of smoke being released into the air. The soccer coordinator reach out to me with the following questions. This is the first time I seen this type of smoke cloud being release by the factory. Please advise.”
 - Soccer field of Little Village Lawndale High School.
- South Side Weekly published an article 5/13/20 [“The Bad Smell Behind the School”](#) regarding students, educators, and LVEJO organizers addressing industrial emissions



Preventative actions for Demolition Tomorrow

- Turn off ac/heater units
- Close windows and doors
- Close vents
- Limit outdoor exposure
- Let your neighbors and family know
- Wear a protective mask if you must go outside

Little Village Neighbors Blindsided Again By Demolition At Hilco Site — A Month After Dust Cloud Fiasco

Demolition work began Thursday, city officials said. Ald. Michael Rodriguez said he was notified the same day. "I have no reason to have faith in Hilco to get this done right."

MAY 14, 2020 4:08PM CDT

PILSEN, LITTLE VILLAGE, WEST LOOP



Mauricio Peña @MauricioPena

Pilsen, Little Village and West Loop reporter
mauricio@blockclubchi.org
[See more](#)



<https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/05/14/little-village-neighbors-get-no-notice-another-demolition-is-happening-at-dust-cloud-site/?fbclid=IwAR2FIMvxWS97ZHRgXvOljKJ4X3PrjGHN8WqGiSSbQFGibEZO-S-Pnyy7ycYA>

Questions / Comments



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