

Rogers-Eubanks Coalition to End Environmental Racism
Minister Robert Campbell, Chair
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Neloa Jones, Vice-Chair
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Voice Mail: 919.360.1364

October 26, 2007

Dear Mayors, Town Council Members, and Aldermen,

On February 8th of this year, Commissioner Moses Carey sent letters to Mayors Kevin Foy and Mark Chilton on behalf of the Orange County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) (see attachments). In these letters, Commissioner Carey requested input from the mayors, council, and aldermen with regard to the location of a new solid waste transfer station. Because this feedback was never provided,¹ The Rogers-Eubanks Coalition to End Environmental Racism (CEER) would like you to provide this input now. **Please respond to the following two questions, and email your responses to stanleyjones919@bellsouth.net by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31, 2007.**

1) Do you wish to have Orange County consider other sites for the solid waste transfer station?

2) Does continuing solid waste activities, including building a solid waste transfer station in the Rogers-Eubanks communities, constitute environmental injustice by your definition?

Please briefly explain your answers.

The BOCC's decision to site yet another solid waste facility on Eubanks Road highlights a number of moral and environmental injustice issues. Its decision-making process completely ignored the following EPA guideline for siting waste transfer stations:

“All siting criteria must be developed before identifying potential transfer station sites. This approach ensures siting decisions are based on objective criteria.”²

As you ponder the question in Carey's letter, CEER urges you to consider the bias inherent in the way he posed it.

1) He primarily emphasized the additional costs of considering a site other than Eubanks Road, rather than asking you to seriously consider the many other factors involved in siting a waste transfer station.

¹ See attachments: a short note from Kevin Foy and a letter written by Mark Chilton, for which we do thank him.

² *Waste Transfer Station: A Manual for Decision Making* (United States Environmental Protection Agency), p. 14.

2) Other than Eubanks Road, Commissioner Carey offered only one other potential site (Highway 70 East).

Please understand that CEER is asking that local governments (the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro) do their best for their communities as well as for the county as a whole. We would like us all to walk together into the future as a whole people, as a whole community, as whole towns, and as a whole county.

“‘Environmental justice’ means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies. Both the decision-making process and its outcome are important to achieving environmental justice.”³

On April 29 of 2005, the Chapel Hill Town Council renamed Airport Road to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. Carrboro has also honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. If this action is to be seen as substantial, rather than mere posturing, the elected representatives of the people must take a firm stand for justice when it is difficult, as well as when it is easy. *Each of you has the historic opportunity to be the politician who puts an end to 35 years of environmental racism in the Rogers-Eubanks Community.* You have the opportunity to redeem Mayor Howard Lee’s promise to the residents of this community that they would only have to endure the burden of the landfill for ten years.

Please note that the attachments are for your reference and information only.

Please accept our thank you in advance for taking the time to answer the above two questions and emailing your responses by Wednesday, October 31, 2007 to stanleyjones919@bellsouth.net. We intend to publicize your responses.

Sincerely,

Neloa Barbee Jones

Neloa Barbee Jones, Vice-Chair
Rogers-Eubanks Coalition to End Environmental Racism
stanleyjones919@bellsouth.net
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P.S. CEER would very much appreciate your confirming receipt of this email.

³ State Environmental Resource Center, Madison, Wisconsin (www.serconline.org/contact.html)