

MS. CHILDRESS: We are at

My name is Jessica Childress. I am here representing St. Francis Neighborhood Center. I am here with Tara Thompson, Jenna Gray, Emanuel Leach, and Darnell Timons. These are students in our upper school program. St. Francis

Neighborhood Center is a community center in Reservoir Hill that serves over 300 residents a month. I run the Power Project, which is our after school program, which is a free after school program for children living in 21217. Our center lies catty corner across the street from where the proposed location for the exhaust vent is. Emanuel, here, is holding our architectural plans for our building renovation, which will allow us to serve double the amount of students, and expand our building trifold. It is a huge, huge thing for us, but this means more programming, and more opportunity for youth and families. That being said, the hazardous diesel fumes that would be discharged from the vents are a serious concern for us. Many of our students suffer from asthma and other health conditions related to poor air quality and pollution in this area. Volatile crude oil and other hazardous materials being transported beneath our neighborhood are extremely dangerous potentially for our families and students. We hope that you will reconsider these plans. That's all I have. Do you all want to share something?

EMANUEL LEACH: I live in the

neighborhood.

THE HEARING OFFICER: If you could say your name and your address?

EMANUEL LEACH: I am Emanuel Leach. I live on _____, and I am literally the closest to the vent building. The Power Project has really helped me. I have a tutor that helps me every week, and it's really helped me in my school work and my projects, and I used to really stutter a lot, but when I came to St. Francis, I felt good, I felt energized, I felt like a normal person again because at school, before I came to Power Project at school I used to get nervous. I used to get bullied. Since I came to Power Project, I felt safer at school with people. My confidence went up. Right now, if I hadn't went to the Power Project, I would not be able to stand here right now and testify. I would be scared and would have ran, but since I met Miss Jessica, Miss Jenna, Miss Tara, my friend, Darnell, I have plenty of friends there, my friend Asia, my friend, Robert, my friend, Ramell, we all have fun. My sister even goes there and they help her, too. It is, like, really fun, and with the future plans, we can have many more

people come there, and have many more friends, and it would be the greatest thing that anybody can ever do for our little community there, because I don't want nobody to get hurt, anybody poisoned. A lot of people are scared that this can happen. There is already types of water crisis around the world. Flint, Michigan is one of them. If we have diesel fuel right now, there will be a water crisis here. The drinking water won't be safe. I would probably have to move and I don't like moving. I move too much. It gets contaminated in the air and everything. Schools may be shut down somewhere. Like, my school is really close. It is Mount Royal Middle School. It serves a lot. I am in an Honors class. It helps me with my 7th and 8th grade work. There is ingenuity in our school. Our Boys and Girls Club and everything else, it is, like, really, really great. My mom even signed me up out there because I really enjoyed the summer and I wanted to continue. I will continue until my high school years. I will come back during my high school years and come back after my college years just to thank them for this great opportunity. That is all I have to say.