



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2021

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Resident-Led Town Hall – A Region in Decline?
Second Grassroots Rally to Discuss the Future of the Mon Valley

Pittsburgh, Pa. – The first-ever SWPA Resident-Led Town Hall on April 6th drew nearly 300 registered participants and addressed our region’s long-standing poor air quality. Since then, U.S. Steel has scrapped plans for a \$1.5 billion-dollar investment to upgrade the Mon Valley Works leaving many questions for the future of the region unanswered.

Residents remain concerned and will have plenty to say on the need for a new vision for the Mon Valley.

The second Town Hall will feature **two long-time USX steelworkers** who will offer insights into how the company sought to undermine safety initiatives and its long history of broken promises. **Two local youth activists will speak as well.** One question to be addressed: Can our region support an alliance of labor and environmental activists that focuses on a vision for the future aimed at environmental improvement?

“This is not a one-shot deal, a singular program,” says Howard Rieger, a Squirrel Hill resident and co-organizer of the Resident-Led Town Hall series. “Our goal is to build a diverse constituency that will provide ongoing feedback to elected officials that good enough is not good enough. Our region needs to adopt a viable vision for future development not tied to fossil fuels, the end result of which can be a healthier future for all of us. To get there, resident interests need to be at the table, not shut out of the process.”

Speakers/ Presenters

Howard Rieger, Squirrel Hill resident, East End Neighbors
Art Thomas, lifelong Clairton resident and former USX steelworker (36 years)
Mike Stout, U.S. Steel Homestead steelworker (mid-1970s to the mid-1980s).
Germaine Patterson –Clairton resident and women’s healthcare advocate
Amanda Jones – Obama High School grad, current college freshman. Her family has suffered a heavy health toll from air pollution
Sean Russell – Junior at Westinghouse High School and environmental activist
Sharon Stern – Northside resident, retired community organizer

The diverse citizen coalition planning the Town Halls includes residents from Clairton, Braddock, Uptown, Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Bellevue, Northside, Franklin Park and Sewickley. Residents concerned about future emissions from the Shell Petrochemical Plant are also represented. Speakers will share their personal stories of what it is like to live with the constant assault of polluted air and the impact it has taken on loved ones and their communities.

Similar to the first Town Hall, an open-mike opportunity will allow for an unscripted dialogue following the speakers.

MEDIA ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Join the Zoom Town Hall

<https://bluelens.zoom.us/j/93487031059?pwd=ZzNFbIA1bFVPYINEdzBjcjNDNkJFZz09>

or watch the livestream on the Facebook page of [North Braddock Residents for our Future](#)

NEXT Town Hall – July 28, 2021. Details to come