



**EMBARGOES UNTIL 6 PM JAN. 23, 2023**

Jan. 23, 2023

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### **SWPA's 9<sup>th</sup> Virtual Resident-Led Town Hall**

***"Why the EPA Needs to Meet With Those Whose Lives Have Been Most Affected by the Toxic Air We Breathe"***

**Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m., [Register](#)**

The next SWPATH Resident-Led Town Hall will focus on personal stories from residents living in the environmental justice communities of Allegheny and Beaver counties who continue to suffer from our region's poor air quality.

These personal pleas – which will highlight the lived experience of people who live closest to sources of heavy, toxic pollution in the Mon Valley and Beaver – will be shared with EPA Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz who has been invited to the region to meet personally with residents. Mr. Ortiz has not yet responded to the invitation.

The goal of this Town Hall is to convey the need for immediate action on air quality in SWPA and the importance of lowering the annual average air quality standard for particulate matter (PM) to 8ug/m<sup>3</sup> or lower to protect the health of people from fine particles, said Howard Rieger, co-leader of the SWPATHS Town Halls.

"This Town Hall will include a sign-on letter which we plan to send to EPA's Adam Ortiz, underscoring that too many lives have been lost because of weak standards and the failure of our Allegheny County Health Department to adopt modern enforcement methods," said Howard Rieger, co-founder of SWPATHS Town Halls. "It will also highlight that during the frequent

calamities that occur in the operations of our worst polluters, such as U.S. Steel, it is inexcusable that ACHD has a totally inadequate warning system for the residents of our region."

Scientific studies affirm that people experience chronic and acute health reactions to PM 2.5 at any exposure level. ([Cohen, Brauer et al](#)). This means that a new standard should be as health protective as possible.

During the Town Hall, the following residents will speak (not necessarily in this order)

Doreen Johnson, Clairton resident  
Arthur (Art) Thomas, Clairton resident  
Qiyam Ansari, West Mifflin resident  
Melanie Meade, Clairton resident  
David Meckel, Glassport resident

Chardae Jones, Braddock resident  
Mary Carey, Braddock resident

Valerie Kennedy, Beaver County  
Bob Schmetzer, Beaver County  
Lisa Lieb Casale, Beaver County  
Rachel Meyer, Beaver County  
Sr. Kari Pohl, Beaver County

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