



Our Right to Clean Air

A Resident-Led Town Hall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Air Quality Town Hall #16: Why Is the Health Department Funding in Limbo? *Four Allegheny County Council Members To Attend TONIGHT!*

Join Allegheny County Council leaders for a Southwest Pennsylvania Grassroots Air Quality Town Hall, to learn how a better funded Allegheny County Health Department, coupled with significant upgrades at U. S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works, would result in reductions in cardiovascular, respiratory and related diseases.

The entire council was invited to join the Tuesday, July 15, 2025, Town Hall, 7 p.m. on Zoom. So far Paul Klein, Dan Grzybek, Bob Macey and Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis have accepted.

TONIGHT! July 15, 2025, 7 p.m.

[Register on Zoom](#)

A year ago, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) proposed a fee increase, to be paid by polluting industries, for processing their Title V operating permits. This would provide the funds to fill vacant positions required to protect the health of residents.

At the request of the leadership of ACHD, we have devoted the last year to promoting the fee increase, but Council has failed to act.

Howard Rieger, convener of SWPA Grassroots Town Halls noted that all candidates for Allegheny County Executive were sent a survey prior to the election, that among other questions asked candidates, "What is your plan for adequately funding the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), and assuring that it carries out its environmental protection mandate aggressively?"

Innamorato responded as follows: "Allegheny County is consistently ranked as one of the worst places in our nation for air quality resulting in detrimental effects on our children, seniors and communities. Our county government has a responsibility to act quickly and decisively to fund the ACHD because it is the only department with the explicit responsibility to protect our public health."

For a year, Allegheny County Council has failed to approve its health department's recommendation. In the meantime, people are dying or becoming seriously ill because of the pollution that affects all of us.

Our 16th Town Hall, Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 7PM EDT on Zoom, will present additional research findings that underscore the health consequences that we face while the County Council fails to do the right thing and pass the recommendation.

We will hear presentations which underscore the need for a better funded ACHD from:

Dr. Deborah A. Gentile on her new article published in the "International Journal of Environmental Health Research" entitled: School absenteeism linked to PM2.5 and SO2 exposure in students with asthma from environmental justice areas, with elevated AQI risk.

Dr. Wuyue Yu of New York University, about their research on the cardiovascular and respiratory health improvements seen after the 2016 closing of the Shenango Coke Works on Neville Island, and the gains that would result from better maintenance and pollution controls at U. S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works, our #1 source of air pollution.

Failure to act on this resolution reflects a lack of vision on the part of regional leadership that is squandering the outstanding assets that we possess in every sector and which, if properly deployed, could chart a healthier and more promising economic future.

Media is cordially invited to attend. #

