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THE NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF
THE PROPOSED WEST 135TH STREET
CONVERTED MARINE TRANSFER STATION
HELD AT: ROBERTO CLEMENTE SCHOOL
625 West 133rd Street
New York, New York
June 16, 2004 6:07 p.m.

Job: 161259
Reported By: MARC RUSSO

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 2 A p p e a r a n c e s :
 3
 4 HARRY SZARPANKSI, P.E., Assistant Commis-
 sioner,
 5 DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION, 44 Beaver Street,
 12th
 6 floor, New York, New York 10004
 7
 8 WALTER CZWARTACKY, DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION
 9
 10 VAUGHAN F. ARNOLD, DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION
 11
 12 SARAH DOLINAR, DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION
 13
 14 DEXTER MAITLAND, Spanish Interpreter
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

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1
 2 MR. SZARPANSKI: (Through the
 3 interpreter) Good evening, everybody my
 4 name is Harry Szarpanski and I'm
 5 assistant commissioner for long-term
 6 exports at the Department of
 7 Sanitation. We had a request for an
 8 interpreter and Dexter Maitland is our
 9 interpreter; I will say a few sentences
 10 and turn it over to Dexter.
 11 I welcome the opportunity to
 12 appear before you tonight. I'm joined
 13 by members of my staff, Walter
 14 Czwartacky, Vaughan Arnold on my left
 15 and Sarah Dolinar to my right. I would
 16 like also to introduce Daniel Harkins
 17 and Susan Raila, they're from the firm
 18 of Henningson, Durham and Richardson,
 19 Architecture and Engineers or HDR. HDR
 20 is responsible for conducting the
 21 environmental review for the
 22 Department's projects. Representatives
 23 of the firm of Ecology and Environment
 24 organized this meeting and are also
 25 here tonight.

1
2 As you may know, the Department
3 of Sanitation is preparing a new
4 comprehensive solid waste management
5 plan for the City to replace the plan
6 that will expire at the end of October
7 of this year.

8 The new solid waste management
9 plan, or as we refer to it as the new
10 SWMP, will plan for the management of
11 all of the solid waste generated in the
12 City over the next 20 years.

13 We expect to issue a draft of
14 the new SWMP in September. It will
15 need to be approved by the City Council
16 and by the State. The new SWMP will be
17 supported by an environmental impact
18 statement. The new SWMP will rely on
19 current programs to recycle compost and
20 prevent or reduce waste.

21 A key component of the new SWMP
22 is the long-term export of solid waste
23 managed by the Department of Sanitation
24 through state-of-the-art marine
25 transfer station facilities that are

1
2 Department's website and in public
3 repositories in your community and nine
4 other communities that are proposed
5 sites for new marine transfer stations
6 or for alternatives.

7 My comments tonight will be
8 brief; I will make a short power point
9 presentation before the public portion
10 of the meeting begins. Copies of my
11 presentation will be available at the
12 end of the meeting.

13 The real focus of this public
14 meeting will be your comments and on
15 issues and potential impacts that will
16 be evaluated in the environmental
17 review of the marine transfer station
18 or alternatives.

19 If you plan to make a statement
20 for the record, please make sure that
21 you take a moment to complete a speaker
22 sign up sheet. You will be assigned a
23 number, and I will call your name when
24 it is your turn to speak. Note that
25 elected officials will have an

1
2 proposed to be built at the City's
3 eight existing marine transfer sites in
4 Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and the
5 Bronx.

6 These facilities will
7 containerize waste and be transported
8 by barge for the disposal. Staten
9 Island waste will be exported from a
10 facility that is now under construction
11 in Staten Island.

12 This program to build new
13 marine transfer stations is called the
14 MTS conversion program. We are here
15 tonight to hear your comments on the
16 proposed West 135th Street converted
17 marine transfer station and the
18 proposed actions, including the MTS
19 conversion program and alternatives
20 that were outlined in the draft scoping
21 document we issued on May 17th.

22 The draft scoping document was
23 mailed to all of the elected officials
24 and community boards and to our
25 regulators and was placed on the

1
2 opportunity to speak first.

3 Because we are interested to
4 make a complete record of your
5 comments, please state your name
6 clearly and slowly for the
7 stenographer. Also, as you see, we
8 have requested and provided a Spanish
9 interpreter at this meeting for the
10 benefit of the Spanish-speaking
11 community, so please allow the
12 interpreter time to repeat my
13 statements in Spanish.

14 So that we can hear everyone
15 who wants to speak tonight, we ask that
16 you keep your statements to three
17 minutes. If you do not wish to speak
18 but would like to provide us with
19 written comments, please complete one
20 of the comment cards we have provided
21 for your use. Thank you for coming
22 tonight and I will now begin my short
23 presentation.

24 (Showing slides) the new solid
25 waste management plan includes several

1
2 initiatives; it includes long-term
3 export and new recycling facilities in
4 the City and it will deal with the
5 commercial waste sector.

6 We've elected to conduct an
7 enhanced public outreach in accordance
8 with New York State DEC's environmental
9 justice and project policy guidelines.
10 So we're here today to receive your
11 comments on the scoping document for
12 the draft environmental impact
13 statement for the SWMP.

14 I think I've mentioned that
15 verbal comments will be taken if you
16 sign in; you can fill out a comment
17 sheet and submit written statements.

18 You can mail comments to me by
19 July 9th at the address shown and you
20 will have a copy of the power point
21 presentation so you don't have to take
22 copious notes or to the address of our
23 consultant, Ecology and Environment.

24 Also, after we receive and
25 review comments, we'll incorporate

1
2 alternatives. It's hard to see, but in
3 Manhattan, the three existing marine
4 transfer stations are: At West 135th
5 Street, West 59th Street and East 91st
6 Street.

7 I mentioned existing marine
8 transfer stations, there are three in
9 Manhattan, three in Brooklyn, one in
10 Queens, one in the Bronx. The proposed
11 action also includes reactivating the
12 52nd Street Barge staging area in
13 Brooklyn.

14 The objectives of this program
15 are, export waste by barge and/or rail,
16 reduce in-city transfer trailer
17 traffic, utilize more economical
18 disposal capacity and provide more
19 transport and disposal options.

20 Here's another chart that's a
21 little hard to read, but the different
22 colors represent the three wastesheds
23 that feed the three existing marine
24 transfer stations in Manhattan.

25 Next. Some of the key design

1
2 those comments and make it available on
3 our website. The final scoping
4 document is expected to be out between
5 July 15th and July 30th.

6 The proposed action is to
7 convert the eight marine transfer
8 stations in the four boroughs. The
9 alternatives that are also being
10 evaluated in this EIS are rail or barge
11 export of waste from private transfer
12 stations in the boroughs of the Bronx,
13 Brooklyn and Queens.

14 Another alternative is to
15 rehabilitate the existing marine
16 transfer stations to barge waste to an
17 out-of-city unloading facility. And
18 the third alternative is to deliver
19 waste in collection vehicles or barges
20 to an out-of-city waste disposal
21 facility.

22 I don't know if, how clearly
23 you can see this, but this is a map
24 showing the existing locations of both
25 the marine transfer stations and

1
2 features of the converted MTSSs are:
3 Advanced odor control systems; I'll go
4 into more detail on each of these, more
5 on-site space for truck queuing and
6 containerization of waste. This is a
7 typical cross-section of a converted
8 MTS; could we get that focused a little
9 better?

10 Trucks drive into the facility
11 over a ramp on the right side and then
12 the truck backs up on the tipping
13 floor. There are six positions where
14 trucks can back up and dump their loads
15 on to the next level which is the
16 loading floor. Once the waste is on
17 the loading floor, it's pushed by a
18 front-end loader into openings in the
19 floor and there are four such openings:
20 A container sits under each of those
21 openings and once waste is pushed down
22 into the container, the container is
23 then rolled into the lidding area just
24 to the left of those openings.

25 The lidding operation involves

1
2 putting down a cover and sealing the
3 container before it's moved out, out of
4 the building. Once the container is
5 moved out of the building, a gantry
6 crane will pick up the container and
7 position it onto a barge.

8 So, as the diagram shows, all
9 waste processing occurs when it's in an
10 enclosed building, including loading
11 from the collection vehicles, loading
12 containers and the lidding of the
13 containers.

14 The odor control system is
15 designed so that ventilation prevents
16 air from escaping the processing
17 buildings when the doors are open. The
18 facility will have rapid roll-up doors
19 so that the doors remain open for less
20 time.

21 There's also an interior water
22 misting system inside the building to
23 reduce dust in the exhaust air. And
24 rather than using a masking agent,
25 they'll be state-of-the-art odor

1
2 control system to neutralize odors in
3 the building exhaust air. And no
4 detectable odors will be at sensitive
5 receptors.

6 This diagram shows where the
7 facility is and the nearest sensitive
8 receptors; Riverbank State Park is just
9 to the north of the facility; there are
10 residences just to the east and south
11 and a park to the south. The diagram
12 also shows the New York City DOT truck
13 routes.

14 MS. REGINA MCRAE: Excuse me,
15 which are the truck routes?

16 MR. SZARPANSKI: The north and
17 south roads shown with the dotted red
18 lines.

19 MS. REGINA MCRAE: That would
20 be through Amsterdam Avenue; can you
21 please define the truck route?

22 MR. SZARPANSKI: Broadway and
23 Amsterdam Avenue; the cross streets are
24 West 155th Street, 145th Street and
25 125th Street.

1
2 MS. REGINA MCRAE: And they
3 would come down Broadway or Amsterdam
4 and then turn on 145, 155 or 125 and
5 then pick up what, Riverside?

6 MR. SZARPANSKI: Well, those
7 are the designated truck routes and
8 when the trucks come close to the
9 facility where there are no truck
10 routes, they'll take local streets.

11 MS. REGINA MCRAE: That's what
12 we thought, yes.

13 MR. SZARPANSKI: Next.

14 The facility is designed so
15 that there's no truck queuing on
16 streets. It's -- the facility access
17 ramp will be longer than the previous
18 ramp at the MTS and they're designed in
19 such a way that they can support trucks
20 queued on the ramps.

21 There will be room for 17
22 collection vehicles to queue on site.
23 The tipping bays are within the
24 facility and can accommodate six
25 trucks. This shows where the existing

1
2 footprint of the marine transfer
3 station is and the proposed marine
4 transfer station there; the proposed
5 one is above to the north, slightly to
6 the north of the existing footprint.

7 Little bit about the
8 containerization; the containers are
9 specially-designed, intermodal
10 containers; they have leak-proof seals;
11 the containers will be lidded inside
12 the building and then loaded on to a
13 flat bed barge, and there would be no
14 exposed waste outside of the building.

15 This slide shows a typical
16 container lifting operation; this one
17 happens to be out in Utah.

18 This is a view from the land of
19 the lifting of the containers and
20 placing them on to a flat bed barge.
21 The alternatives that we will evaluate
22 in the EIS include rehabilitation of
23 some or all of the existing marine
24 transfer stations in order to barge
25 waste to an out-of-city unloading

1
 2 facility.
 3 The use of East 91st Street,
 4 West 59th street or an MTS at
 5 Gansevoort, is a receiving facility for
 6 recyclables collected in Manhattan to
 7 be delivered by barge to an in-city
 8 recyclables processing facility and the
 9 delivery of Manhattan waste in
 10 Department collection vehicles to an
 11 out-of-city waste-to-energy facility.
 12 This is a listing of
 13 anticipated time line for public review
 14 and involvement. It shows that the
 15 public scoping meetings, and this is
 16 the first of a series of ten such
 17 meetings, will take place between June
 18 16th and July 1st.
 19 Comments on the draft scoping
 20 document are due by July 9th by mail
 21 and July 11th by fax. We anticipate
 22 issuing a final scoping document July
 23 14th; a draft EIS is anticipated to be
 24 issued August 6th. New York State DEC
 25 part 360 and the DEIS hearings are

1
 2 anticipated between September 8th and
 3 September 28th.
 4 Once a draft plan goes to the
 5 Council, we anticipate the City Council
 6 will hold hearings in September. There
 7 will be a comment period on the EIS
 8 between August 6th and October 8th.
 9 Publication of the final EIS is
 10 anticipated December 9th.
 11 We have also established a hot
 12 line, toll-free number, 888-NYC-SWMP.
 13 An we've made available for review,
 14 documents at various public
 15 repositories.
 16 Thank you for listening and
 17 bearing with me. I would like to turn
 18 over the meeting now to those people
 19 who signed up to speak. And I see that
 20 we have Manhattan Borough President C.
 21 Virginia Fields with us (applause.)
 22 Thank you for coming.
 23 **MS. C. VIRGINIA FIELDS:** Okay,
 24 I think that works. Good evening, good
 25 afternoon.

1
 2 Let me first say that I am
 3 pleased to know that the communities
 4 will get a chance to respond and give
 5 comments as we go through the process
 6 of looking at the draft environmental
 7 impact study.
 8 The plan we know, as you just
 9 outlined, calls for the rebuilding of a
 10 new expanded marine transfer station at
 11 135th Street on the Hudson River in
 12 order to accommodate a larger tipping
 13 floor and the extra space for
 14 containerization.
 15 When this plan was first
 16 announced, I did oppose the expansion
 17 of this facility because then, as now,
 18 I'm concerned about the localized truck
 19 impacts reopening this MTS would bring.
 20 In addition to expansion and truck
 21 impacts, a third issue is the proposed
 22 processing of commercial waste through
 23 the converted MTS which has been talked
 24 about in this one here in Manhattan.
 25 These issues arise in the

1
 2 larger context of the already
 3 concentration of city and state
 4 facilities such as the bus and the
 5 truck depots and two sewage treatment
 6 plants in Northern Manhattan and in the
 7 immediate area of the proposed expanded
 8 MTS on 135th Street.
 9 And moreover, we are in the
 10 process, as I'm sure you know, of
 11 reclaiming our waterfront and seeing
 12 the community's vision once and for all
 13 for the development north of 125th
 14 Street in the area surrounding this MTS
 15 unfold.
 16 So with that as a back drop, I
 17 do want to offer the following areas
 18 for inclusion in the scope of the
 19 environmental impact analysis: One,
 20 that we must have included the analysis
 21 of truck impacts, not only for the
 22 residential stream, but also for the
 23 talked about mix of residential and
 24 commercial waste at some fixed
 25 percentage of total expected capacity

1
 2 of the MTS.
 3 Two, the planned phasing in of
 4 pollution controls and the use of
 5 ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel in the
 6 Department of Sanitation trucks should
 7 be spelled out and taken into
 8 consideration on an out-year basis so
 9 that fleet impacts are accurately
 10 projected year by year.
 11 Three, the worst-case scenarios
 12 of private waste hauler vehicle
 13 pollution should be included in
 14 anticipated impacts from the inclusion
 15 of commercial waste in the stream
 16 handled by the MTS.
 17 Four, given the concentration
 18 of existing polluting facilities in the
 19 area, pollution increments from the
 20 operation of the MTS should not be
 21 assessed in isolation, but rather
 22 cumulatively in the context of already
 23 elevated levels of background
 24 pollution. Particulate matter should
 25 be measured a PM2.5 and not as PM10.

1
 2 Five, it appears that DSNY has
 3 determined that none of the four
 4 additional sites evaluated in the
 5 commercial waste study are suitable for
 6 export; however, the existing MTSS
 7 would also not be suitable for DSNY
 8 (bell rings) to apply the same criteria
 9 used to disqualify the other four.
 10 Consequently, the draft impact
 11 study must disclose precisely the
 12 technical, legal and other parameters
 13 that have lead the agency to plan on
 14 using existing MTSS only.
 15 Third and final recommendation:
 16 Noise impacts from the truck traffic
 17 and from the operation of the MTS
 18 itself, should be analyzed in terms of
 19 sensitive receptors and not just
 20 averaged over large areas as is done in
 21 the commercial waste study.
 22 I believe that if this
 23 environmental impact study is done
 24 thoroughly, then the community on its
 25 own will be able to determine the

1
 2 cumulative burden of the pollution it
 3 bears which affects the health and the
 4 well being of every one of us, but
 5 especially the young and the old who
 6 suffers with respiratory ailments and
 7 face this situation in this part of
 8 Northern Manhattan.
 9 Thank you for the opportunity
 10 to comment. Thank you (applause.)
 11 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you very
 12 much for your comments. I see we have
 13 another elected official here, Council
 14 Member Robert Jackson.
 15 Would you like to speak at this
 16 point? Thank you.
 17 We also having a representative
 18 of Senator David A. Patterson, Roxanna
 19 Thomas.
 20 **MS. ROXANNA THOMAS:** Good
 21 evening everyone. My name is Roxanna
 22 Thomas, I'm the community liaison for
 23 the 30th senatorial district and I'm
 24 testifying on behalf of New York State
 25 Senate democratic leader David A.

1
 2 Patterson. I thank you for providing
 3 us with the opportunity.
 4 Children who reside in Harlem,
 5 East Harlem and Washington Heights are
 6 at very high risk of developing chronic
 7 respiratory disease at a rate 22 times
 8 that of children who reside in Lower
 9 Manhattan. In Harlem alone, one out of
 10 four children have asthma.
 11 Along with exposure to known
 12 triggers of asthma such as mold,
 13 insecticides and pet dander, children
 14 residing in these predominantly
 15 low-income communities are also living
 16 in areas that exceed federal standards
 17 for toxic air pollutants. As a result,
 18 over a dozen studies have proven
 19 conclusively that the current level of
 20 air pollution is directly responsible
 21 for the significant spikes in
 22 respiratory diseases and rates of
 23 hospital admissions for residents of my
 24 district.
 25 In the Harlem and Washington

1
 2 Heights community, there are six
 3 Metropolitan Transit Authority bus
 4 depots, several diesel station vehicle
 5 garages and two of the City's largest
 6 sewage treatment plants, one located
 7 right next to the Riverbank State Park.

8 It is this oversaturation of
 9 known facilities that contribute to the
 10 increase in asthma, a disease that
 11 kills 5,000 Americans a year.

12 That is an unfair burden for
 13 our community to bear. The children
 14 are being disproportionately exposed to
 15 air pollutants which otherwise hinder
 16 their opportunity to lead productive
 17 and energetic lives.

18 The proposed reopening and
 19 expansion of 135th Street Marine
 20 Transfer Station would only increase
 21 exposure to these harmful environmental
 22 pollutants from the diesel and from the
 23 garbage that these trucks will haul.

24 We understand that the closure
 25 of the Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten

1
 2 to health hazards. All must share the
 3 burden equally. We must protect the
 4 health and the well being of our
 5 children and our families in our
 6 community. Thank you (applause.)

7 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 8 Our next speaker is Joan Levine.

9 **MS. JOAN LEVINE:** Good evening,
 10 my name is Joan Levine and I live less
 11 than a mile from the proposed MTS at
 12 135th Street; I'm also co-chair of the
 13 Morningside Heights West Harlem
 14 Sanitation Coalition and chair of the
 15 Morningside Gardens Community Relations
 16 Committee.

17 I'm must say that I am very
 18 disappointed in the newly-proposed
 19 comprehensive solid waste management
 20 plan for New York City. Here my
 21 reasons: Number one, there is still
 22 the same gross inequity between the
 23 tonnage you propose to process at 135th
 24 Street and the amounts proposed for
 25 East 91st Street and West 59th Street.

1
 2 Island caused the waste crisis in the
 3 City and that there was a need to
 4 create alternative ways of dealing the
 5 City's waste. However, Harlem and
 6 Washington Heights have already been
 7 plagued with housing two of the City's
 8 largest waste management plants. The
 9 smell and the fumes from these two
 10 sewage plants and the bus depots have
 11 already wreaked havoc on the health of
 12 this community. Harlem and Washington
 13 Heights is a thriving and resurging
 14 community and they are at risk of being
 15 turned into wastelands.

16 Reopening and expanding the
 17 135th Street Transfer Station will only
 18 further expose children to harmful
 19 pollutants hindering their potential
 20 for health and growth and development.

21 As opposed to children spending
 22 their days in the school, they will
 23 spend more time in hospitals. We must
 24 create plans that do not
 25 disproportionately expose one community

1
 2 This is particularly unfair
 3 given the plethora of nasty polluting
 4 municipal -- municipal facilities, one
 5 right next to another in this West
 6 Harlem neighborhood.

7 Two, despite the fact that
 8 everyone and every business makes
 9 garbage, you have not seen fit to
 10 propose constructing more MTSs
 11 Downtown. I know you have concluded
 12 that there is no suitable space, but if
 13 you look at 135th Street MTS, it's not
 14 suitable either. You must reopen these
 15 investigations and find more sites
 16 below 59th Street. Many are as
 17 suitable as what you already have.

18 Number three, other cities in
 19 the U.S. and Canada are way ahead of
 20 New York City in reducing, reusing and
 21 recycling waste. Your department just
 22 gives lip service; our City needs to
 23 seriously reduce the amount of waste to
 24 be exported. This is why you should
 25 embrace the zero waste plan developed

1
2 by 40 environment and environmental
3 justice groups in the City which will
4 be officially released tomorrow.

5 Instead, your proposed plan
6 will do little to ameliorate the costly
7 prices our City faces, most important
8 to us in this community; less waste is
9 one important way we can lessen
10 pollution around our MTS.

11 Number four, I would of wished
12 that your plan would of fairly and
13 imaginatively constructed the problem
14 of communities like ours which already
15 have an MTS site. How about community
16 benefits for those neighborhoods that
17 host an MTS? The way it stands now,
18 your unimaginative, inequitable and
19 outdated plan only angers our
20 community. We will protest until we
21 feel that all Manhattan is fairly
22 sharing in the responsibility of their
23 own garbage disposal, not just our
24 community. Thank you (applause.)

25 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you for

1
2 offensive way of handling our solid
3 waste (applause.)

4 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you. We
5 have Abby Cook-Mack, community liaison
6 for Eric Schniederman.

7 **MS. ABBY COOK-MACK:** Good
8 evening, my name is Abbey Cook-Mack and
9 I'm testifying on behalf of State
10 Senator Eric Schniederman who is in
11 legislative session today and is unable
12 to attend this hearing.

13 Senator Schniederman represents
14 the 31st Senate District which includes
15 parts of the Upper West Side, West
16 Harlem, Washington Heights, Inwood and
17 Manhattan and Riverdale in the Bronx.

18 And we're concerned that
19 putting this particular MTS back into
20 operation will have an extremely
21 negative impact on this neighborhood.
22 While I understand the City's dire need
23 for places to load its garbage, I
24 cannot endorse a plan that would place
25 yet another burden squarely upon the

1
2 your comments. Our next speaker is
3 Marie Ledoux.

4 **MS. MARIE LEDOUX:** Marie Ledoux
5 and I worked with Joan Levine in the
6 West Harlem Morningside Heights
7 Sanitation Coalition. And I'm a member
8 of the Morningside Garden Community
9 Relations Committee.

10 I certainly want to echo that
11 of my colleague Joan Levin said, this
12 plan does not represent equity, we want
13 equity not only intraborough, but
14 interborough. We feel that also going
15 beyond that, I want to mention Joan did
16 talk about the zero waste plan, the
17 concepts of composting, reducing,
18 re-using and recycling.

19 If -- I hope that your
20 department will consider very seriously
21 that plan. It would create, generate
22 more interesting new technologies, more
23 meaningful jobs than what people have
24 now. And eventually what could evolve
25 to a much healthier and far less

1
2 shoulder of a community that already
3 bears far more than its fair share of
4 the City's operational infrastructure.

5 In April 2003, the Department
6 of Environmental Conservation developed
7 an environmental justice policy. In
8 its policy, the DEC defined
9 environmental justice as, fair
10 treatment and meaningful involvement of
11 all people, regardless of race, color
12 and/or income with respect to
13 development, implementation and
14 enforcement of environmental laws,
15 regulations and policies.

16 Fair treatment means that no
17 group of people including racial,
18 ethnic or socioeconomic groups should
19 bear a disproportionate share of the
20 negative environmental consequences
21 resulting from municipal operations.

22 Unfortunately, Northern
23 Manhattan residents have been forced to
24 do just that. Northern Manhattan is
25 currently the home of over one-third of

1
 2 the entire City's public bus fleet, one
 3 half of the Manhattan Port Authority
 4 Terminals, three sanitation diesel
 5 truck depots and one outdoor parking
 6 lot that also serves the Upper East
 7 Side.

8 Moreover, the North River
 9 Sewage Treatment Plant located between
 10 135th and 145th Streets on the Hudson
 11 River, treats all of Manhattan's sewage
 12 north of Bethune Street in Greenwich
 13 Village. The addition of an MTS to
 14 this already extensive list would be
 15 unjust and unwarranted.

16 The omnipresence of these
 17 facilities has had a deleterious affect
 18 on Northern Manhattan residents.
 19 Pediatric hospitalization admission
 20 rates for asthma in North Manhattan
 21 rate and are disproportionately higher
 22 when compared to the neighborhoods
 23 around the City. Indeed, they are the
 24 highest in Manhattan and the second
 25 highest in the City next to the JFK

1
 2 Airport area.

3 Moreover, according to a recent
 4 Columbia University and West Harlem
 5 environmental action study, air
 6 pollution in this region is causing
 7 negative birth outcomes like low birth
 8 weight and size.

9 I see no reason why this
 10 particular community should be asked to
 11 take on yet another burden. Though an
 12 MTS structure already exists on 135th
 13 Street, the proposed land would not
 14 save capital dollars by building upon
 15 an already existing facility. Instead,
 16 the existing structure will be
 17 demolished to make way for a new,
 18 larger and more
 19 technologically-advanced station.

20 If the situation is such that
 21 new buildings are to be constructed,
 22 there is no reason whatsoever that the
 23 station must be built in this part of
 24 Manhattan. Northern Manhattan already
 25 does its part helping our City to

1
 2 function.

3 It is time that we ask other
 4 parts of the City to step up and take
 5 some of the burden up, thank you
 6 (applause.)

7 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 8 Our next speaker is Sara Martin.

9 **MS. SARAH MARTIN:** Good
 10 evening, my name is Sarah Martin, I'm
 11 president of Joan Grants Residence
 12 Association here at Joan Grant Houses,
 13 and co-chair of West Harlem, West Side
 14 Sanitation Coalition.

15 You know you listening to all
 16 this testimony that every time same
 17 things are being said, but you people
 18 still don't do anything to better our
 19 quality of life and the community
 20 breathing in all that gook, it's what I
 21 call it.

22 You speak of asthma, you speak
 23 of other serious respiratory, air, you
 24 hear that right here. But to sit
 25 behind those chairs, you all got

1
 2 bosses, your bosses got bosses, but who
 3 the hell are we? We just suffering.
 4 I'm a chronic asthmatic myself,
 5 still independent, like a lot of other
 6 people in this community but yet you
 7 pick places where people of color live
 8 to dump on every time. I'd like to see
 9 some answers or hear some answers.

10 I expected to hear something
 11 here this evening about well, we going
 12 to put one of those MTSS down below
 13 59th Street, or this or wherever. No,
 14 show me those plans, then we can talk
 15 about bringing more gook up here where
 16 we already have a lot of it already.

17 And simple terms, we've had it,
 18 it's purely environment racism. And we
 19 all know it (applause) you all need to
 20 get a -- get the true facts in your
 21 mind and do -- elected officials or
 22 whoever's here, hear this: We're the
 23 same people who put you in office and
 24 it seems to me that DSNY or whatever,
 25 the Sanitation, Department of

1
2 Sanitation don't give a damn, neither
3 does the Mayor because the Mayor's
4 supposed to be you guys' boss. So the
5 boss of bosses don't care.

6 Where do we go, what do we do,
7 we do -- I mean, I've been testifying
8 for years, it's the same thing, now
9 you're trying to make a bigger, better
10 MTS up here when you're not a doing
11 doodly squat Downtown. Let Downtown
12 take care of their garbage, then we're
13 going to take care of our's up here.
14 Thank you (applause.)

15 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
16 Norma Ramos.

17 **MS. NORMA RAMOS:** Good evening,
18 my name is Norma Ramos, I'm an
19 environmental justice attorney, I also
20 serve an the board of the West Harlem
21 Environmental Action and (applause) the
22 National Hispanic Environmental
23 Coalition.

24 I first want to commend our
25 City Council Member Jackson who

1
2 treats all of the sewage that is
3 generated on Manhattan's West Side. It
4 is host to six out of eight Manhattan
5 bus depots, one of two Port Authority
6 bus terminals, three Sanitation diesel
7 truck depots, and this list goes on and
8 on and it doesn't include all of the
9 lesser-polluting facilities.

10 Now, this adds up to an
11 unconscionable amount of diesel
12 pollution in our community. This
13 concentration of polluting facilities
14 is what the United States Environmental
15 Protection Agency calls "facility
16 density."

17 What has been the human cost of
18 this facility density? We have
19 recently learned that our community has
20 the highest documented asthma rate in
21 the nation. The medical community of
22 specifically Columbia has also
23 documented low birth weight in Upper
24 Manhattan.

25 These are only the health

1
2 deferred to the community instead of
3 like so many of our politicians, he did
4 not come in, speak first and leave, he
5 sat there and is listening to his
6 community (applause.)

7 Tonight I offer this testimony
8 in opposition to the Mayor's solid
9 waste plan: I would first like to note
10 that it is no coincidence that the same
11 Mayor who has been now quoted two times
12 in the New York Times, that perhaps the
13 solution to New York City's solid waste
14 problem is to ship -- ship it to some
15 Caribbean Island somewhere. So it's no
16 surprise that he's also the proponent
17 of a plan that calls for the demolition
18 and rebuilding of the 135th Street MTS
19 here in Harlem which would be three
20 times the size of the MTS located at
21 91st Street.

22 Now, Northern Manhattan, which
23 is only geographically 7.2 square
24 miles, is already host to the North
25 River Sewage Treatment Plant which

1
2 effects that they're studying; keep in
3 mind that we really don't know the full
4 impact of concentrating all of this
5 pollution in our community.

6 For instance, we don't know how
7 this pollution is affecting our rate of
8 cancer. Northern Manhattan has been
9 shaped and molded by decades of
10 environmental decision-making that has
11 served to locate and concentrate
12 noxious and polluting facilities in
13 communities of color. That's what we
14 call environmental racism.

15 Now this policy also has a
16 negative impact on our economy. And
17 there are studies that show that when
18 you concentrate polluting facilities in
19 a community, that it has a negative
20 impact on the economics of that
21 community.

22 The Community Service Society
23 just released a study which showed that
24 fully half of all African-American men
25 ages 16 to 64 are unemployed. For

1
 2 Latino men, 40 percent. So now I would
 3 of hoped, as one of the earliest
 4 environmental justice attorneys and
 5 activist in New York City, and one who
 6 is who now serving on Government
 7 Pataki's Environmental Justice Advisory
 8 Group, that this pattern of racist
 9 decision-making would of finally been
 10 broken and would give way to a fair, to
 11 what we call we fair share
 12 environmental policy making.

13 But no, you see, fair share
 14 policy making would equitably
 15 distribute new facilities and
 16 redistribute some of the current
 17 polluting burdens that we're
 18 shouldering right now.

19 To put it more bluntly,
 20 Northern Manhattan doesn't need and
 21 cannot possibly bear one more polluting
 22 facility. What we do need is for Mayor
 23 Bloomberg to declare a public health
 24 emergency in Northern Manhattan and
 25 issue a moratorium on the issuance of

1
 2 Additionally, there are some
 3 classic, but very familiar internal
 4 contradictions regarding the
 5 consistency to which your own agency
 6 applied their own criteria; one
 7 criteria is not to locate a marine
 8 transfer station within 400 feet of a
 9 park. Apparently this ruled out the
 10 Gansevoort Marine Transfer Station
 11 which is located in a more affluent
 12 white community. So they're not going
 13 to get their marine transfer station.
 14 But the proposed MTS in Harlem is also
 15 going to be located within 400 feet of
 16 a park.

17 Now, this kind of
 18 decision-making is going to leave your
 19 agency vulnerable to a Title Six Civil
 20 Rights Complaint because Title Six of
 21 the Civil Rights Act provides remedies
 22 when an agency such as yours that
 23 receives federal funding, engages in
 24 racial discrimination. So you need to
 25 take a very close look at that.

1
 2 any new permitting (applause) of
 3 polluting facilities, and that
 4 moratorium must specifically refer to
 5 the MTS 135th Street.

6 Failing that, I call upon our
 7 state legislators. Are any here? To
 8 act in the same way in the State
 9 Legislature like Carmen Arroyo did in
 10 the South Bronx, this community needs a
 11 moratorium.

12 Instead of fair share, we have
 13 a plan that failed to seriously
 14 consider sites below 96th Street. And
 15 I am told by those who are very
 16 knowledgeable about MTSs and solid
 17 waste policy, that there are at least
 18 four other sites below 96th Street that
 19 are more suitable for this MTS, but
 20 they were only given a cursory review
 21 by your agency.

22 There has also been a failure
 23 to consider new development in the
 24 World Trade Center area for new MTSs or
 25 for several MTSs.

1
 2 Finally, it has been widely
 3 reported that this plan has received
 4 environmental justice support. I find
 5 this very curious to say the very
 6 least, because the basic premise of
 7 environmental justice is that
 8 communities speak for themselves.

9 I now serve on the Steering
 10 Committee of what is now a 42-member
 11 Northern Manhattan Environmental
 12 Justice Coalition which is working to
 13 oppose this plan.

14 We do stand in solidarity with
 15 other communities of color in this town
 16 that are bearing an unjust burden
 17 regarding waste transfer stations.
 18 However, it is never environmentally
 19 just to lighten the load of one
 20 overburdened community with color, by
 21 increasing the load on another equally
 22 overburdened community of color.

23 So what is the solution?
 24 First, scrap this plan, pun intended
 25 and immediately initiate a process that

1
2 will bring together our best thinkers
3 who will become architects of a solid
4 waste policy that will equitably
5 distribute more transfer stations.

6 Secondly, Mayor Bloomberg needs
7 to immediately constitute an
8 environmental justice advisory group as
9 our republican Mayor has -- governor
10 has, and this would assist his
11 administration in formulating
12 environmental policies that are -- will
13 not pit one community against another.
14 Thank you (applause.)

15 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you very
16 much. Our next speaker is Luis Aguas.

17 MR. LUIS AGUAS: Yes, good
18 evening. I want to speak in my
19 language. It's possible? Okay, thank
20 you.

21 (Through interpreter) good
22 evening, my name is Luis Aguas and you
23 know, good evening especially the
24 children that are here.

25 I've lived in this community

1
2 for over 40 years. I'm here to protest
3 against the transfer of garbage to over
4 here on 135th Street.

5 This community already has
6 enough problems with the environment.
7 It's an injustice, the plan that the --
8 the plan that the Mayor has with all
9 these groups to establish this waste
10 stations for garbage; I'm 71 years old
11 and I would like to live to be 100,
12 (applause) and with those plans to open
13 that station, and that garbage is only
14 going to put in jeopardy the health of
15 all the residents of that area because
16 of the circulation of all those trucks,
17 all the gases and the vapors and the
18 toxic waste that is going to be
19 poisoning our kids, our older people
20 and all our children.

21 One question: Why? Isn't this
22 community worth anything? What are
23 these kids going to do, are they going
24 to continue getting sick? They're
25 going to reach the half of my age.

1
2 Please, put your hand on your
3 heart and understand the community,
4 what is the matter? Doesn't the
5 community realize -- don't you realize
6 that the Latin person or the Hispanic
7 person, doesn't he count for something?
8 One day you're going to have to count
9 on the Latin, because -- (applause.)

10 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you very
11 much. Next speaker is Christina Burks
12 Lee.

13 MS. CHRISTINA BURKS LEE: From
14 the passionate to technical. My name
15 is Christina Lee, I've lived 25 years
16 in Hamilton Heights/West Harlem. While
17 I sit on the community board, I am not
18 here for that board tonight; I also sit
19 on the Solid Waste Advisory Board, I'm
20 not here for them tonight. I'm here
21 for myself and my family and my
22 neighbors.

23 I would like you to reconsider
24 very carefully a number of points about
25 how you've constructed your draft

1
2 scoping document.

3 First, it is clear that you
4 made no appreciable effort to locate
5 any site outside Northern Manhattan and
6 59th Street and I think your must
7 reconsider that, particularly since you
8 do own piers Downtown and you do truck
9 -- park trucks on them which is not
10 really the kind of water board use that
11 a pier is for.

12 Second, you have to reconsider
13 the way you're looking at the 135th
14 Street site, it's not a site that
15 exists in the middle of a beautiful
16 field of flowers with nothing else
17 nearby. You have to consider the straw
18 that broke the camel's back effect on
19 this community.

20 Cannot pretend as you did in
21 2000 that you're the only thing there
22 and you don't have to take into account
23 what is the ten-block long smelly thing
24 immediately to the north and the effect
25 that that has if you're adding to it.

1
 2 You have to consider your own
 3 cumulative place in this because we
 4 have to live with that community place
 5 and it poisons us.
 6 Third, your draft scoping
 7 document isn't in fact using the proper
 8 study area. I live over in Hamilton
 9 Heights, but you left out the census
 10 blocks between my cute little house in
 11 Hamilton Heights and your facility.
 12 The people at 136th Street and
 13 Riverside, the people at 137th and
 14 Broadway, all of those census blocks
 15 that are between my house that you're
 16 apparently worried about and your site,
 17 are not in your study area, you instead
 18 went down and looked through the
 19 manufacturing zone and studied that.
 20 But the people you're most likely to
 21 poison are the people in the
 22 residential blocks that you left out of
 23 the study area, you have to look at it
 24 again.
 25 Fourth, you also haven't taken

1
 2 going to be like when you get there,
 3 not based on what it was five years
 4 before any of this happened and you're
 5 not going to do that so you're going to
 6 end up with trucks queued up in and
 7 tough situations and affecting people
 8 that you didn't think about now and you
 9 should be starting with the quadrangle;
 10 started with the proposed 134th Street
 11 entry ramp to the Henry Hudson instead
 12 of what we got now.
 13 Okay, fifth, this study plan
 14 basically doesn't take into account
 15 what you have to do to study traffic in
 16 this area. The way you've got it
 17 written out in the draft scoping
 18 document, you could study all the
 19 traffic at 2:00 on a Tuesday afternoon;
 20 your trucks aren't out at 2:00 on
 21 Tuesday, they're out earlier.
 22 The shopping patterns for the
 23 Fairway, the shopping patterns for the
 24 commuters, all of the other traffic
 25 patterns is the area that affect what

1
 2 into account the actual developmental
 3 status of the area that you're
 4 proposing to study. You're looking
 5 back a couple of years when it was only
 6 a little manufacturing area that some
 7 of us like very much, but right now,
 8 there is a park that's opening almost
 9 immediately and it's talking about
 10 kayaking at 134th Street and the
 11 construction starts this summer.
 12 There is long conversation
 13 about Columbia University's quadrangle
 14 which is radically going to change the
 15 hindering 8,000 people into the area.
 16 There is a rearrangement that's been
 17 done at the Fairway facility which has
 18 very peculiar traffic situations that
 19 you have to take into account and you
 20 haven't.
 21 You have to realize and take
 22 into account when you're looking
 23 forward in a plan, that the community
 24 that you're in is looking forward too
 25 and you have to plan for what it's

1
 2 you would be doing, don't occur on the
 3 really neat midweek, mid-afternoon that
 4 you did your testing on last time and
 5 you're probably going to do it on this
 6 time.
 7 If you're going to do realistic
 8 testing about traffic, you have to take
 9 into account the periods when your
 10 trucks are going to be there and study
 11 the effect that you're gonna have on
 12 those. You can't do it in abstract of
 13 some manual that allows you to do it
 14 that way.
 15 Six, you've talked very much in
 16 your plan, just as a Sanitation
 17 Department, just as sewage treatment
 18 people did about state-of-the-art
 19 filters, state-of-the-art this,
 20 state-of-the-art that, you have to
 21 evaluate what you're actually going to
 22 use because we here heard the
 23 state-of-the-art song with the sewage
 24 treatment plan and what we got is a
 25 ten-block long potty.

1
 2 For all the state-of-the-art
 3 that another city agency promised, you
 4 have to evaluate the real equipment,
 5 see whether it's really going to work
 6 and how it's really going to affect
 7 what's there. We can no longer accept
 8 the generalization that you're going to
 9 get the best stuff there is, because
 10 that's what the other guys told us and
 11 you know what you got.

12 Then you have to consider
 13 something that you haven't considered
 14 yet, although your engineering studies
 15 in 2000 did which is that if you're
 16 putting in the kind of equipment you're
 17 talking about, you have to have a
 18 contingency plan when some of it breaks
 19 down.

20 If East 91st Street goes down,
 21 what happens to this plant here? If
 22 this plant goes down, what happens to
 23 East 91st Street or East 59th Street?
 24 None of that is in your thinking but
 25 your original engineering studies

1
 2 for nice, neat socially-acceptable PC
 3 recyclables. Well, there's still only
 4 three marine transfer stations here
 5 guys, and you have to take into account
 6 and lay out and explain very carefully
 7 if you're planning to do it or even
 8 thinking of planning to do it, what the
 9 effect is of putting that commercial
 10 waste through this facility. Because
 11 nothing that anybody up here can see
 12 suggests for a single minute that
 13 you're thinking of putting an equal
 14 share of that through 91st Street or
 15 you're thinking of putting an equal
 16 share of that through 59th Street or
 17 you've even found anything south of
 18 there to put anything through.

19 All we know is you're building
 20 us four times bigger than we were
 21 before so we'll have the same capacity
 22 as some of those monsters in Greenpoint
 23 and you're not doing anything like that
 24 for anything else in Manhattan.

25 These are things you have to

1
 2 talked about the fact that trucks move
 3 slower in the system, that there's more
 4 for a chance of breakdown, all of that
 5 has to be studied and considered here
 6 and it's not in the draft sopping
 7 document that I can see, but it is very
 8 likely in our future because this is
 9 New York and nothing is perfect in New
 10 York.

11 It's -- we're not downgrading
 12 the department to say you're not --
 13 because nobody else is, but that means
 14 you got to think what happens when
 15 something that you don't want to break,
 16 breaks and make you sure you understand
 17 that we understand what's going to
 18 happen with that.

19 Then you have to tell us much
 20 more clearly than you're planning to
 21 do, what happens when you take in the
 22 commercial waste. You're already
 23 talking about 59th Street or 91st
 24 Street being diverted from the general
 25 waste stream, I saw it up on the board,

1
 2 look at in fairness if you expect to do
 3 a fair and appropriate environmental
 4 impact statement for this facility in
 5 this place, and I see nothing in there
 6 that says you're planning to do that,
 7 so it may end up as bad as the 2000
 8 study where you said that the effect on
 9 marine wild -- marine animals and
 10 plants for reconstruction of the marine
 11 transfer station was simply debatable
 12 and that was your entire discussion.

13 I think you need to re-think
 14 your methodology very carefully,
 15 address the real community, that this
 16 thing is going to exist in the way it's
 17 going to be when you get it built, make
 18 sure you consider all of the residents
 19 and not just the ones that are
 20 conveniently far away that complain a
 21 lot like landmark people tend to do and
 22 do this properly and right so that we
 23 can't just peck at you and peck at you
 24 for all of these mistakes, instead we
 25 can say, yes, we thought of that.

1
2 Now is the time you can revise
3 your methodology to do it right it and
4 that's what you should do (applause.)

5 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.
6 David Evans.

7 MR. DAVID EVANS: Thank you, my
8 name is David Evans, I live in this
9 community between Tiemann Place and
10 125th Street on Riverside Drive. And I
11 work as a professor of public health at
12 Columbia University Medical Center up
13 at 168th Street in the Department of
14 Pediatrics.

15 My speciality is research to
16 help control pediatric asthma and I was
17 a member of the First National
18 institute of Health Expert Panel that
19 developed federal guidelines for the
20 diagnoses and treatment of asthma.

21 I oppose building a marine
22 transfer station in Northern Manhattan
23 because there's evidence that diesel
24 emissions from garbage trucks will
25 cause additional cases of asthma and

1
2 showing that children who live or go to
3 school near freeways with high truck
4 and auto traffic, are more likely to
5 have symptoms of asthma such as cough
6 and wheeze, decreased lung function,
7 that means what percent of the air in
8 your lungs can you breathe out in a
9 second; more hospitalizations due to
10 asthma and more allergy symptoms. And
11 this is something a bit surprising,
12 most of us think of diesel exhaust as
13 just an irritant like smoke or strong
14 fumes, but there's a lot of studies, a
15 lot of research that shows that diesel
16 exhaust particles make our immune
17 systems more sensitive to inhale
18 allergens like pollens and mold.

19 So breathing diesel exhaust
20 makes a person who suffers from asthma
21 more likely to have asthma attacks that
22 get triggered by allergens. So it's a
23 primer, a promotor of asthma triggering
24 from other factors.

25 And other speakers have also

1
2 make existing cases of asthma worse.

3 I think a lot of the other
4 speakers have talked about the fact
5 that asthma is a major health problem,
6 a major health problem in the Harlem
7 community. Nation-wide, about five to
8 ten percent of people have asthma; in
9 Harlem, it's 25 percent, that's one in
10 four, way above the rate in the rest of
11 the United States and even in other
12 parts of New York City.

13 Another thing is that asthma
14 hospitalization rates are much higher
15 in New York City and, excuse me, in
16 Harlem and East Harlem, three times
17 higher than they are in the rest of
18 Manhattan.

19 Turning for a moment or rather
20 turning to diesel exhaust, diesel
21 exhaust trucks -- from trucks has been
22 directly linked to asthma and other
23 health, lung/health problems.

24 Here are some facts about
25 diesel exhaust: There are five studies

1
2 alluded to the fact that we found that
3 the Center for Environmental Health and
4 in association with that, exposure to
5 in woman and in children before they're
6 born, that high levels of exposure to
7 PAH, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
8 with the most -- create a source which
9 is diesel and gasoline exhaust, can be
10 found in the blood of kids and in the
11 blood of their mothers and that's
12 associated with lower birth weights and
13 lower birth lengths.

14 So, there's a lot of health
15 impacts on children's health broadly
16 and low birth weight and in children's
17 health, specifically with asthma which
18 is a major problem in this community.
19 And I think that, I remember the days
20 when the transfer station was open
21 before and trucks queued up and they
22 sat around and waited and they idled
23 and when the guys put their foot on the
24 accelerator, big plumes of black smoke
25 came up into the air, that's going to

1
2 be happening again. And I think the
3 trucks driving to the marine transfer
4 station will add significantly to this
5 community's diesel exhaust and to the
6 already high level of asthma in the
7 Harlem and South Bronx communities.

8 So for that reason I recommend
9 the station not be opened and more,
10 that alternatives be sought that will
11 significantly reduce diesel emissions
12 in the community. And I have one
13 specific suggestion, people have talked
14 about state-of-the-art technology, if
15 you take some of the money (bell rings)
16 that's going to be used to redo these
17 marine transfer stations and invest
18 that in state-of-the-art power for your
19 garbage trucks, (applause) like
20 compressed natural gas or even clean
21 diesel technology, you'll do an
22 enormous amount more for the health of
23 people in Northern Manhattan than you
24 will any other way, so I think you
25 should add that to you power point

1
2 (applause.)
3 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
4 Our next speaker is Carrie A.
5 **MS. CARRIE A:** Hello, hello,
6 I'm a resident of this community and I
7 am very angry with the inhuman plans to
8 re-open the marine transfer station of
9 135th Street. I'm not just talking
10 about the health effects it will have
11 on myself and my husband, but our child
12 who is now 14 months old, okay. And --
13 and let's not -- and being a mother, by
14 the way, this was reason enough for me
15 to, even the prospect, the possibility
16 of the prospect of this happening, to
17 scare the living you know what out of
18 me regarding, thinking, you know, of my
19 -- my 14-month-old daughter.
20 And of course, let's not forget
21 all of the other people who live, work
22 and attend school in the area. By the
23 way, there is a huge number of children
24 who live all around 135th Street and
25 the surrounding area. This station

1
2 should not, must not be reopen.
3 These diesel trucks running,
4 circulating in our community, carrying
5 all that commercial and residential
6 garbage from Downtown Manhattan need to
7 be taken elsewhere and should not be in
8 Northern Manhattan.

9 If -- excuse me, I'm -- I have
10 lost my place but still, I'm -- I'm
11 passionate about this. If, I mean, we
12 have enough going on already here
13 regarding pollutants of course. And as
14 -- if the health -- if the health, the
15 welfare and the lives of all of us as
16 human beings are being considered, then
17 these incredibly inhumane, tragic plans
18 will not become a reality (applause.)

19 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
20 Lois Penny.

21 **MS. LOIS PENNY:** My name is
22 Lois Penny, I've been in this community
23 for over 20 years. I have a couple of
24 comments. I'd like to say that
25 everybody that spoke before me has

1
2 adequately expressed my concerns about
3 the transfer station and my sentiments.
4 I noticed on your website that
5 you have two proposals for this
6 Manhattan transfer station and two
7 scoping documents, one which is
8 03DOS0041, which addresses the transfer
9 station and the plans for that and
10 another one addresses commercial. And
11 what's going to happen to the
12 commercial garbage.

13 The two -- the -- it appears
14 from the documents, particularly the
15 commercial documents, that your intent
16 is to fool this community into thinking
17 that this transfer station is going to
18 cover the garbage in our community when
19 in reality, the other proposal says you
20 building excessive capacity to route
21 all the commercial garbage from Midtown
22 and Lower Manhattan up here to this
23 transfer facility.

24 We're already overburdened and
25 if you compare the two, and I have -

1
2 my other question is, how come the two
3 proposals are not in one scoping
4 document and we have an adequate
5 picture of what is being planned for
6 this community?

7 Second question in terms of the
8 trucks coming down the local routes
9 which was a question that I had when he
10 had up the slide, we have fought - I
11 live on 138th Street - the Department
12 of Sanitation for years about their
13 trucks coming down our block. We have
14 a decaying infrastructure, we have had
15 a watermain leak for ten years that
16 washed away the underlayment under the
17 street; we cannot sustain commercial
18 trucks, sanitation trucks at the
19 magnitude that that is being planned.
20 And according to the commercial plan
21 with the excess capacity, once those
22 trucks are brought from -- in from
23 eight p.m. to eight a.m. that's
24 bringing another 175 trucks into this
25 community, down these side streets to

1
2 that transfer station, that don't
3 include the regular trucks for -- that
4 picks up throughout the City during the
5 daytime.

6 Our street cannot handle that
7 capacity; I'm sure there are other side
8 streets that lead down to 12th Avenue
9 that cannot handle that capacity and
10 what -- and how come that is not into
11 the plans to investigate and strengthen
12 infrastructure surrounding the plant
13 since you appear to be planning to put
14 that in any way?

15 So my -- so -- so essentially
16 my -- am I opposed to any plan to
17 expand the sewer treatment plant; I'm
18 opposed to the methods that have been
19 used to con this community into
20 thinking that you're doing A when in
21 reality you're doing B. I think your
22 two plans should be combined into one
23 and we should be given an adequate
24 picture of what's taking place in this
25 community, not two separate proposals

1
2 (applause.)

3 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
4 Mary Titus.

5 **MS. MARY TITUS:** Good evening,
6 I'm with the 666 Riverside Drive Tenant
7 Association; I've been on the street at
8 that address for 20 years.

9 I would just like to briefly
10 mention, as professionals in business
11 you're in, you may or may not know that
12 Metropolis Magazine earlier this year
13 hosted a forum called "Turning Down The
14 Global Thermostat" which was an
15 interesting take on the contribution of
16 CO2 emissions by the design and
17 architecture of this country and how
18 radically CO2 emissions can be reduced
19 by changes in what goes into the
20 interior structure of buildings and how
21 buildings are built.

22 And right here at Columbia
23 University right now, already
24 developed, not in a developing stage
25 but already developed, are products

1
2 like floor tiles and other types of
3 architectural products that are
4 revolutionary, that are made out of
5 recyclable materials.

6 I see nothing in your plan
7 other than maybe shipping this all out
8 somehow to Utah or someone who doesn't
9 want our trash, I see nothing in your
10 plan about reducing waste in newer ways
11 that's vital today. And I see modern
12 things that look like that they might
13 work like the doors that evidently keep
14 all odors away from this humongous
15 facility which I guess they roll away
16 really fast like out of a cardboard
17 James Bond Movie, but I guarantee you,
18 a year after this thing is built, these
19 things are going to fail, and we're
20 going to have just wide open doors
21 because how you going to get a truck
22 through? You gonna have some fancy
23 thing with I'm sure a great ventilator
24 that will work while they cut the
25 ribbon and then a month later it's

1
2 going to be permanently broken; we have
3 police cars cruising around here with
4 no hubcaps, if it is broken it stays
5 broken in this neighborhood.

6 I want to also say that our
7 community doesn't appreciate what City
8 Hall thinks of us. It's not just the
9 water treatment plant and the other
10 pollutants like the West Side Highway
11 and the other major pollutants
12 impacting our health here, especially
13 the children's health here, but these
14 illegal builders pilfering all over the
15 place right next to where you want to
16 build this plant, could go down if they
17 want to come to us and ask us for
18 something for New York City. And I
19 have a suggestion for this plan for
20 this facility: Take all the plans,
21 roll them up, pack 'em up and get out
22 of Harlem (applause.)

23 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
24 Our next speaker is Mary Titus. I'm
25 sorry, you only get one chance. Wynn

1
2 this is -- this makes me sad. I know
3 that I am not all alone because there
4 are so many kids in my neighborhood
5 that are also sick and who never get
6 better.

7 I'm a member of a group of kids
8 that are learning about the environment
9 and how serious the con --
10 contamination is in our neighborhood.
11 Harlem is a beautiful place but we keep
12 getting all this ugly stuff like fumes,
13 garbage and treatment plants in our
14 community.

15 It seems that nobody cares
16 about what happens to us and that's why
17 they keep piling up all this waste in
18 our neighborhood. I want to live a
19 long life. I want to go to college and
20 have a career and family. Please help
21 me realize my dream, stop from making
22 our community a dumping ground of New
23 York City (applause.)

24 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Wynn, thank
25 you very much. Julissa Ventry, Ventra.

1
2 Adams.
3 **MR. WYNN ADAMS:** (Applause)
4 good evening, my name is Wynn Adams,
5 I'm 14 years old and I suffer from
6 asthma. I would like to read this
7 statement from Danny Glove (phonetic),
8 a friend of mine who cannot be here
9 today because she is taking Regent's
10 Exams but wants you to hear her voice.

11 "My name is Danny Glove, and I
12 am asthmatic. I am 15 years old and I
13 really want to be a normal kid. I
14 cannot run, jump rope or participate in
15 any competitive sports because --
16 because of my condition.

17 Two months ago I ran in a rely
18 team at the Washington Heights Armory
19 and we lost and I blamed myself. My
20 asthma begin to flare up and I had to
21 stop. The other members of my team
22 were very disappointed.

23 I was born in this community
24 and I have lived here all my life. I
25 have also had asthma all my life and

1
2 **MS. JANET TILON:** (Applause)
3 good evening, my name is a Janet Tilon
4 and Julissa is -- cannot be here today.
5 And I'm 13 years old.

6 "I live at 583 Riverside Drive;
7 135th Street Marine Transfer Station
8 being proposed for (mic problem) I live
9 at 583 Riverside Drive directly across
10 from 135th Street Marine Transfer
11 Station being proposed for expansion so
12 that it could accommodate more garbage.

13 My family, my neighbors and all
14 the young people living in my building
15 are strongly against the expansion
16 because we know how bad it is for our
17 health.

18 My three sisters are always
19 sick and in constant need of medical
20 care because they suffer from asthma.
21 My cousin -- my cousins living at 3333
22 Broadway and 135th Street are also
23 asthmatic. All of them, almost
24 everyone I know suffer from asthma.
25 Sometimes I feel lucky because I don't

1
2 have it, but they tell me that you can
3 get asthma at any age.

4 I'm afraid for my sisters, my
5 cousins and my friends. Some of my
6 friends cannot run around and have fun
7 because they get sick and all because
8 of the garbage and fumes around us.

9 We deserve clean air, we
10 deserve to live long and healthy lives,
11 please, please stop killing us."
12 (applause)

13 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
14 Our next speaker is Bob Roistacher.

15 **MR. BOB ROISTACHER:** Good
16 evening, gentlemen, ladies and
17 gentleman my name is Bob Roistacher,
18 I'm chair of the Morningside Heights
19 Residents Association, that's the
20 community just to the south of the area
21 where the proposed 135th Street MTS is
22 to reopen.

23 An environmental impact
24 statement requires the Department to
25 examine all alternatives, all

1
2 reasonable alternatives to a project.
3 In this case, fair share it seems to me
4 requires the department to look at
5 other alternative sites for -- for
6 locating marine transfer stations.

7 The City's -- the City Council
8 required the Department several years
9 ago to study in its commercial waste
10 study, the possibility of having points
11 of marine transport and rail export
12 south of 80th Street. I believe that
13 the Department is totally in violation
14 of that requirement by the City
15 Council; you purported to look at four
16 installations, four locations; four
17 locations that you looked at before in
18 the scoping document in an
19 environmental study of the current
20 plan, which you looked at these sites
21 four years -- about four, five years
22 ago and you rejected them then and in
23 trying to comply with the City
24 Council's requirement of looking for
25 new locations below 80th Street, you

1
2 looked at just those places, and no
3 other places for a second time. You
4 rejected them all and as many speakers
5 have said here this evening, you
6 rejected them in many -- for many of
7 the same conditions that were obtained
8 here at the 135th Street that -- for
9 having an M1 zone for being within 400
10 feet of a park or a school.

11 Those -- those objections can
12 be raised here and so I don't believe
13 that until -- unless and until the
14 Department examines all other possibly
15 locations for siting an MTS in
16 Manhattan, this transfer station ought
17 to be reopened on the basis of a
18 reasonable fair share objection. Thank
19 you (applause.)

20 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
21 Charles Perry.

22 **MS. MARIA DUNN:** He had to
23 leave.

24 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** He had to
25 leave? Okay, thank you.

1
2 **MS. MARIA DUNN:** Can I take his
3 place?

4 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** You want to
5 speak in his place?

6 **MS. MARIA DUNN:** Yes. I should
7 be 31, Maria Dunn.

8 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Maria Dunn.

9 **MS. MARIA DUNN:** We have an
10 executive meeting tonight so he had to
11 leave.

12 My name is Maria Dunn, I'm the
13 former chair of Community Board Nine
14 and the current community chair of the
15 Harlem Piers Waterfront and Economic
16 Development Committee. In addition, I
17 represent the residents of the
18 Manhattanville Houses to the community
19 board, this is over 2000 people.

20 Much has been said and will be
21 said regarding the negative effects of
22 the proposed new solid waste management
23 plan. The past siting of numerous
24 facilities that are adverse to the well
25 being and quality of life for this

1
2 community in conjunction with the
3 proposed doubling of a marine transfer
4 facility that is currently closed, can
5 only lead to the conclusion that
6 environmental racism is once again
7 being enacted in our community.

8 As a layperson, with no
9 background in waste management, I did
10 make an effort to read the three large
11 volumes that was sent to Community
12 Board Nine and have come away with the
13 following information: 1,308 tons of
14 garbage would be processed each day.
15 The proposed facility would operate 24
16 hours a day, seven days a week. The
17 proposed facility would serve as back
18 up to City water wastesheds normally
19 served by other marine transfer
20 stations.

21 The proposed facility would
22 provide back up for system-wide
23 emergencies; that it will take eight to
24 ten minutes for a vehicle to enter a
25 bay, dump, exit and cause both inbound

1
2 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
3 Lovelyynn Gwinn. Is there a Lovelyynn?
4 Thank you.

5 **MS. LOVELYNN GWINN:** It's me,
6 with the loud-mouth dog. Thank you.
7 My name is Lovelyynn Gwinn and I
8 happen to be a resident on 138th
9 Street. I have been in the
10 neighborhood now for about six years,
11 during the time my house was being
12 built for two.

13 During that time, the marine
14 transfer station was open when I first
15 came up here. There would be trucks
16 lined up on my street at -- sometimes I
17 counted 19 to 23 trucks, all idling,
18 all spewing this nasty brown liquid and
19 it drips out onto the street, you can't
20 even open your window because you open
21 your window, you smell truck. And it's
22 just -- it's disgusting. And I really
23 don't want that back in my neighborhood
24 again. I was happy once it went away,
25 finally now I can grow flowers out in

1
2 and outbound scales. 30 deliveries per
3 hour, 720 trucks per day would be
4 expected.

5 Two barges would be moored side
6 by side at the southern end of the
7 building for loading and unloading.
8 This is directly adjacent to the
9 planned waterfront part for community
10 use.

11 A full-flagged deck barge would
12 hold 48 containers or an average of
13 1,308 tons of garbage. Peak capacity
14 would require five barges shift per day
15 to transfer full containers from the
16 transfer station.

17 Additional barges would be
18 moored at the western end of the Hudson
19 River. With this information which was
20 submitted by the Department of
21 Sanitation, I must ask for an
22 explanation as to why this is not
23 environmental racism once again being
24 placed in our community. Thank you
25 (applause.)

1
2 front of my house, I don't have to
3 worry about, you know, these things
4 being poisoned by the diesel fumes that
5 are coming down my street.

6 I also work as a real estate
7 person here and I'm also concerned
8 about the property values. But in
9 addition, the things that people ask
10 me, I must talk to at least 50 people a
11 day, most of the things people ask me
12 about in the neighborhood are: What
13 are the parks like, what are the
14 neighborhoods like? People don't ask
15 me about trash or if we're going to be
16 having, you know, they all strongly
17 oppose a trash, you know, this MTS it
18 -- it's just too much, we already have
19 all these diesel facilities that are
20 polluting our air.

21 I, myself, did not have asthma
22 when I first moved up here. Recently I
23 was diagnosed with asthma; I had no
24 idea what it was that I had. And then
25 when I went to the doctor he said,

1
2 well, you know, you have asthma and I
3 was like, well, it doesn't run in my
4 family and I don't see how it is
5 possible that I could have it.

6 After learning more about some
7 of the things that go on in the
8 neighborhood that I live in, I've come
9 to realize that it's because of the
10 pollution that's already in the air
11 that perhaps I, you know, been able to
12 somehow contract this and it's really
13 not fun.

14 The other thing that I just
15 really feel that somehow they have to
16 make this so that it's equitable
17 amongst all of the neighborhoods. I
18 noticed that below 59th Street there's
19 nothing and I don't understand why.
20 You know, they should put them down
21 where the trash comes from, especially
22 the commercial trash; talking about
23 Wall Street, you're talking about the
24 World Trade, you're talking large
25 buildings that produce a ton -- a great

1
2 Sanitation and Solid Waste Committee on
3 the City Council and I've sat through
4 many hearings, listening to testimony
5 by the commissioner and by you and
6 others, about issues appropriate to DOS
7 and I've always raised issues
8 concerning the marine transfer station
9 and my opposition to it being reopened.

10 I tell you now, as I've spoken
11 before, that I speak on behalf of my
12 community which everyone here lives in,
13 that we're opposed to it being
14 reopened, (applause) loud and clear.

15 I've sat through most of the
16 testimony and you've heard what they
17 had to say. I think that all of them,
18 all of the representatives spoke very
19 well on behalf of the all other
20 residents of this community, but as
21 their representative, let me say this
22 you to: That I stand up now, and I
23 will stand up in the future and say,
24 that this community does not want that
25 MTS to reopen, for the reasons that

1
2 amount of commercial types of trash and
3 then they should be able to handle
4 their own trash and be able to take
5 care of it in their own land space and
6 not (applause) truck it all the way up
7 here.

8 Not just talking about the
9 actual facility itself, but the number
10 of trucks that are going to be idling
11 and waiting in the neighborhood.
12 That's it. I really just think that
13 they need to reexamine where they're
14 putting this. Thank you (applause.)

15 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
16 City Council Member Robert Jackson.

17 **MR. ROBERT JACKSON:** Thank you,
18 and good evening everyone and I want to
19 thank you for coming up and having a
20 hearing in our community. It's
21 important that we take public hearings
22 to communities that are going to be
23 impacted and I thank all of the people
24 here for coming out.

25 As you know, I am a member of

1
2 they have (applause) -- for the reasons
3 that they've given loud and clear, and
4 you may not think it's environmental
5 racism but let me tell you, if you were
6 a person of color, which you're not,
7 and if you lived in this community,
8 which you don't, you would -- if you
9 were a person of color and if you lived
10 in this community, you will absolutely
11 feel that it's environmental racism.
12 (Applause) and I think that they've
13 expressed themselves very well.

14 Let's not even, if you take a
15 person's skin color or a person's
16 amount of money that people earn and,
17 you know, this community, my district,
18 my district, let me give you a little
19 composition if you're not aware;
20 District Seven which runs from 123rd
21 Street and Broadway to the River, and
22 all the way up to 218th Street, there's
23 163,000 people that I represent. And
24 50 percent of them are Hispanic, 32
25 percent black, 14 percent white, and

1
2 approximately three percent Asian. And
3 the average family income of a family
4 of four based on the 2000 census is
5 under 35 thousand dollars a year.
6 That's the make-up our community.

7 And if in fact we need a marine
8 transfer station or we need them to be
9 re-opened, I do not believe that the
10 Department of Sanitation and the City
11 of New York has done its job as far as
12 siting; you and I know that there are
13 three, everyone here knows, there are
14 three marine transfer stations in
15 Manhattan, 59th Street, 135th Street
16 and 92nd Street.

17 The commissioner said at public
18 hearings down at City Hall, that when
19 the marine transfer station at 135th
20 Street reopens in approximately the
21 year 2007, 2008, that it would only
22 handle residential garbage from
23 Community Boards 9, 11, and 12, in
24 essence, the area up here.

25 I don't believe him, I don't

1
2 (applause.)
3 And I'm not going to -- I'm not
4 going to scream and yell, but what I am
5 I going to tell you is that I do know
6 that the City Council must approve the
7 solid waste management plan and until
8 DOS does its job in coming up with
9 alternative locations, and I'm talking
10 about really looking at alternative
11 locations, I say to you, that I am of
12 the notion to lobby my colleagues not
13 to approve the solid waste management
14 plan (applause.)

15 And I'm not going to on and on
16 and on, but let me just say this, that
17 when I was elected to the City Council,
18 I was elected to do the best that I can
19 to represent the people that I was
20 elected by, and let me tell you,
21 there's some people in this room that
22 disagree with me on a lot of issues,
23 some issues; one issue you may not know
24 is Columbia University's expansion. I
25 have said publicly that I'm in favor of

1
2 believe he's telling the truth quite
3 frankly. I do believe and I'm -- I'm a
4 realist, I do know that we have a
5 garbage problem in New York City, that
6 we have to get rid of our garbage, I
7 realize that, but I also realize that
8 we're not doing enough in order to cut
9 down on our garbage, I do realize that.

10 And I am, I think there is a
11 resolution or a bill that's pending in
12 the City Council concerning zero waste
13 management and I've signed on as a
14 primary sponsor because I believe that
15 the City of New York and the residents
16 of New York City are not doing enough
17 to not produce garbage.

18 And I do know realistically how
19 much it's costing us in order to get
20 rid of our garbage, and let me tell
21 you, you know, it's lot of money and
22 I'm very, very aware of that, but I do
23 know that this community up here in
24 Northern Manhattan (bell rings) cannot
25 be dumped on anymore, I do know that

1
2 the expansion, there's a lot of issues
3 and concerns that this community has,
4 and a lot of people disagree with me on
5 that particular matter. But they're
6 entitled to their opinions and I said
7 to people that overall when you look at
8 people that you have elected to office,
9 you got to look at their record and see
10 what they've done and if you determine
11 that one issue is so strong enough that
12 you feel that you shouldn't vote for
13 them, then don't vote for them and in
14 essence, don't vote for me either or
15 run somebody against me if you're that
16 strong on an issue.

17 And I say to you deputy
18 commissioner, that I wish for you to
19 express to Mayor Bloomberg that this is
20 an issue that this community is
21 standing up and saying, no, no, no
22 (applause.) And the Mayor, Mayor
23 Bloomberg is a very smart man, he's a
24 very, no one can underestimate his
25 intelligence and his business savvy and

1
 2 I know that he can add up, and if the
 3 residents of Northern Manhattan on the
 4 East Side are opposed to the reopening
 5 of the 96th Street Marine Transfer
 6 Station, which they are, and if the
 7 residents of Northern Manhattan, West
 8 Harlem are opposed to the marine
 9 transfer station being reopened, which
 10 the majority of them are, and if he
 11 doesn't listen to the people that are
 12 in the communities that are going to be
 13 impacted by these marine transfer
 14 stations, then he faces a critical
 15 situation whether or not he's going to
 16 be reelected next year (applause.)

17 And I do know that the members
 18 of this community are going to put that
 19 question, not only to Mayor Bloomberg,
 20 if in fact there's a town hall meeting
 21 up here, and I will hold a town hall
 22 meeting up in Northern Manhattan,
 23 matter of fact, I'll say to you right
 24 now, and I say to the residents of
 25 Northern Manhattan, I will hold a town

1
 2 hall meeting in this community where
 3 the issue of the marine transfer
 4 station is going to be put to all those
 5 individuals that want to run for Mayor
 6 of the City of New York and for the
 7 borough presidency (applause.) And
 8 Stanley (indicating) you're one of the
 9 individuals that is running so we want
 10 to put you -- we going to put you too
 11 and all the other nine or ten members
 12 that plan to run for the Manhattan
 13 borough president, to answer a question
 14 whether you support or if they reopen
 15 and what are you going to do to stop
 16 it. That's a simple question.

17 But I want to thank you for
 18 giving me the opportunity to speak; I
 19 am very, very glad, as Norma said, that
 20 I sat and listened to what everyone
 21 else had to say, and everything that
 22 they said I've heard before and I am
 23 going to go into the hearing room down
 24 to City Hall, more armed with the
 25 information and testimony that all of

1
 2 the residents of Northern Manhattan put
 3 forward and so I thank you for holding
 4 a hearing in our community and I thank
 5 all of the people coming out knowing
 6 that your representative, myself,
 7 that's a member of the Sanitation and
 8 Solid Waste Committee, will be speaking
 9 on your behalf in the future. Thank
 10 you very much (applause.)

11 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you very
 12 much councilman. We also have here
 13 former Council Member and now citizen,
 14 Stanley Michals.

15 **MR. STANLEY MICHALS:** He's a
 16 little bigger than me so I got to move
 17 it down.

18 Now you know after listening to
 19 City Council Member Bob Jackson, I
 20 savor the words coming out of my
 21 mouth, why I supported him and I'm so
 22 proud of him that he got elected. Bob,
 23 you're -- you make us all proud what
 24 you say.

25 As you folks have heard, I'm a

1
 2 former city councilman, and I served as
 3 the chairperson of the Environmental
 4 Protection Agency for nine years. And
 5 if it wasn't for that position and that
 6 committee, we would not have to approve
 7 the solid waste management, the City
 8 council took it upon themselves.

9 It was signed by Mayor Dinkins,
 10 saying the requirement under the law
 11 that the City Council must approve the
 12 solid waste management plan and that is
 13 why Bob is speaking the way he is and
 14 why he's going to take that action.

15 You're doing a scoping right
 16 here, this is a scoping, I know all
 17 about environmental, EIS environment,
 18 and I know what you're doing and I know
 19 what's happening. But you shouldn't
 20 even be doing this scoping on this plan
 21 and you know why, because in the last
 22 solid waste management plan there is a
 23 provision that says that this
 24 particular solid waste management
 25 facility, this marine transfer station

1
2 cannot be expanded to cover anything
3 more than those three boards.

4 And I have seen this plan and I
5 know it's going to increase the
6 capacity and I know what Bob is saying
7 is true, that we will find ourselves
8 taking garbage from other parts of the
9 City which is in violation of the last
10 solid waste management plan. So this
11 shouldn't even be scoped.

12 This community has suffered
13 long and hard. And it's not the
14 question of how clean these facilities
15 are going to be, it's a question of the
16 trucks there are going to be lined up.

17 We're going to have trucks that
18 will go throughout -- we have so many
19 facilities, I'm sure you've heard, we
20 got the bus stations, we got the water
21 treatment plant, otherwise known as the
22 garbage treatment plant, we have this,
23 we have that. We have the highest
24 percentage of asthma in the City, five
25 -- five -- five percent or something

1
2 increase the garbage.
3 We have -- we're responsible
4 people, we know we have to take care of
5 our own, and there are ways of doing
6 it. I still don't know where this
7 garbage is going, after the Linden Plan
8 disappeared, I have no idea where this
9 garbage is going. And until we see the
10 full picture and know everything, we
11 shouldn't even have a scoping document;
12 I know we have to do a solid waste
13 management plan, but this is not the
14 solution, this is not going to be done
15 at the backs of the people in this
16 community and Bob is right, we should
17 oppose it 'till we know more about
18 what's going on and it should not be
19 increased.

20 We're responsible people, we
21 want to make sure that our community is
22 protected and we have enough up here to
23 take care of it. So please go back and
24 tell him to throw out this proposal.
25 The draft should not be proposed unless

1
2 like five to one ratio of asthma in the
3 City, this doesn't belong here.

4 Mr. Trump is willing to do a
5 lot of things, let him build an MTS
6 down there (applause.) And he's
7 contributing, I don't want to see the
8 garbage from those 14 or whatever
9 number of buildings coming up to our
10 community, that is what we call
11 environmental racism and we don't want
12 that to happen.

13 We have given enough up in this
14 community. I've lived in this
15 community all my life, I represented
16 the people in the community for 24
17 years. And I've been in government and
18 I know what's going to happen and Harry
19 you know what's going to happen. They
20 suddenly say, well, we haven't got a
21 choice, we have to bring this garbage
22 up here. You don't -- you do have.
23 This is the time to stop it. Keep the
24 same footprint, don't increase it
25 because if you do that, you're going to

1
2 it would come back with something
3 that's more reasonable. This is
4 unreasonable and unreasonable for our
5 community and I will recommend my
6 council member to oppose it and all my
7 council members who remember me as a
8 strong leader of the Environmental
9 Protection Agency of the City of New
10 York. Thank you (applause.)

11 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you. We
12 have Robin Chappelle of Congressman
13 Rangel's office.

14 **MS. ROBIN CHAPPELLE:** Thank
15 you. I'm here to represent Congressman
16 Charles Rangel who is in Washington
17 working to serve this community, so
18 I'll read this statement on his behalf:
19 "I, Congressman Rangel, believe that
20 the re-opening of the 135th Street
21 Marine Transfer Station would have an
22 extremely negative impact on the health
23 of the residents of the neighborhood of
24 West Harlem, Manhattan and their
25 quality of life as well as the economic

1
 2 and community development of this area.
 3 We're about to invest millions
 4 of tax dollars in this area to develop
 5 the 125th Street Pier and waterfront
 6 recreational park use, plus other
 7 developmental projects and improvements
 8 in the Manhattanville area.
 9 The reopening of the 135th
 10 Street Marine Transfer Station, with
 11 the large number of truck traffic, will
 12 have a devastating impact that would
 13 make it almost impossible to move ahead
 14 with the planned improvements for this
 15 area.
 16 I understand the enormous
 17 problem of creating a plan for
 18 transport of garbage in our City. That
 19 does not mean however, that our
 20 community should bear the entire burden
 21 from the treatment and transfer of
 22 sewage with the health, environmental
 23 related development problems it brings.
 24 Our community has its fair
 25 share of this City's operational

1
 2 unwanted public facilities and the
 3 burdens that comes with them. It is
 4 now time for other communities to step
 5 up and take their fair share of this
 6 burden.
 7 Let me make it clear: I oppose
 8 the re-opening or extension of the
 9 135th Street Marine Transfer Station
 10 and I will convey to Mayor Bloomberg my
 11 position in writing in the near future.
 12 Thank you." (Applause)
 13 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.
 14 Cynthia Doty.
 15 MS. CYNTHIA DOTY: Hi, my name
 16 is Cynthia Doty, I'm a democratic
 17 district leader for the 69th Assembly,
 18 District Part A and areas just a little
 19 bit south of here, but people in my
 20 area are opposed to this opening of the
 21 marine transfer statement as well.
 22 I would of hoped that the Mayor
 23 would listen to the voices that have
 24 been expressed tonight from the kids to
 25 the elected officials. Their voices

1
 2 infrastructure, a problem that has
 3 delayed the development of our
 4 community for years.
 5 We must not have placed upon
 6 us, the additional burden of an
 7 expanded MTS to treat all the
 8 Manhattan's West Side sewage to already
 9 extensive list of yet another facility
 10 that no other community is willing to
 11 accept.
 12 I can see no reason why my
 13 community should be asked to take on
 14 yet another burden. Since our new
 15 buildings are to be constructed, there
 16 is no reason whatsoever that this
 17 facility should be built or must be
 18 built in this part of Manhattan. In
 19 fact, I'm advised that the selection
 20 criteria developed by your consultants,
 21 rank the 135th Street MTS site below
 22 other, more appropriate locations in
 23 Manhattan.
 24 It is clear that our community
 25 has more than its fair share of

1
 2 should bear as much influence on the
 3 decision-making process as say, Donald
 4 Trump or some of the other developers,
 5 or some of the other contributors to
 6 his campaign. But if history proves
 7 us, is at all an indicator, it's
 8 potentially possible that he will not
 9 pay any attention to this community and
 10 to the people who come out here to
 11 speak tonight. That would be
 12 unfortunate.
 13 If the Mayor and the Department
 14 are going to do a serious and honest
 15 environmental impact study, then they
 16 have to start with the very honest
 17 appraisal of the pollution that already
 18 exists in the neighborhood. You can't
 19 just start with a blank slate and
 20 compare this with other areas in the
 21 City.
 22 This area, as people have
 23 stated already, has, you know, six
 24 diesel bus -- bus depots that has the
 25 Sanitation Truck depots, has the

1
 2 Riverbank sewage treatment plant, all
 3 of them major pollutants. The --
 4 there's also the West Side Highway and
 5 all the traffic and car traffic; this
 6 is a heavily-polluted area and it's
 7 about to encounter major development, a
 8 10 and 20 year proposal of construction
 9 by Columbia University which is going
 10 to bring in thousands of more people,
 11 plus thousands of trucks and cars or
 12 hundreds of trucks and cars and a
 13 20-story building. So the area that's
 14 going to be exposed to the pollution is
 15 going to be very different from what it
 16 looks like right now. They're going to
 17 be huge buildings that are going
 18 collect all of those pollutants.

19 To open a marine transfer
 20 station in this area is completely
 21 immoral, it's unjust, it's unfair; we
 22 spend millions of dollars, we're
 23 willing to now give millions of dollars
 24 of City and State money to the Jets, to
 25 build their stadium on the West Side,

1
 2 we're willing to bend over backwards,
 3 it seems, to help Donald Trump with his
 4 Trump City at -- in the 70s there;
 5 we're willing to do a major effort and
 6 redevelopment of the World Trade Center
 7 and yet we're unable to find any money,
 8 it seems, to do a fair alternative plan
 9 that would distribute the garbage
 10 throughout the City and would -- would
 11 make sure that the people who live
 12 right near there already exposed to
 13 extreme rates of asthma, would be
 14 protected and allowed to live here
 15 safely.

16 I think it's -- that the study
 17 has got to prove that the environmental
 18 impact of this -- of this station will
 19 be adverse and they should go back to
 20 the drawing board and invest some
 21 serious money in planning a fairer
 22 system (applause.)

23 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 24 Our next speaker is Donna Young. Is
 25 Donna Young still here?

1
 2 Regina McRae is it? Thank you.
 3 **MS. REGINA MCRAE:** I'm a member
 4 of the West 138th Street Homeowner's
 5 Association which I'm not representing
 6 them, I'm here on my own behalf. And
 7 I, like some of the others who have
 8 spoken tonight, you'll have to forgive
 9 me for not believing your plan, I don't
 10 have a lot of faith in my government.

11 Last time they showed us proof
 12 of something, we were supposed to
 13 believe in weapons of mass destruction
 14 and I believe your plan is another
 15 weapon of mass destruction and mass
 16 deception (applause.)

17 I happened to have been at the
 18 hearings at City Hall that Council
 19 Member Jackson was also present at and
 20 I had read your website and the
 21 proposals and your very own
 22 commissioner sat and testified before a
 23 committee that the marine transfer
 24 station would not be expanded beyond
 25 its current capacity, while your very

1
 2 own website said it would increase by
 3 700 percent to four and a half acres;
 4 he said it will not be open longer than
 5 a few hours a day or few days a week
 6 and your very own website said it would
 7 run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

8 He said under oath, again,
 9 testifying that it would not haul
 10 commercial waste throughout the City,
 11 where your very own website, everything
 12 he said was contradicted and then he
 13 ran out before question time and left
 14 you holding the bag. I don't know if
 15 you remember that day, I was furious
 16 with him for telling out and outright
 17 lies and then not sticking around to
 18 defend the lies.

19 I'm furious today. Why is this
 20 hearing being held at 5:30 in the
 21 afternoon when the working people of
 22 this community can't reach it? You're
 23 still here 7, 7:30, 8:00 at night, why
 24 couldn't it start at 6:00? This
 25 audience should be packed, there should

1
 2 be standing room only. Everyone that I
 3 contacted said they couldn't make it
 4 and they'd still be at work and I feel
 5 it's subterfuge on the part of the
 6 Department, sneak it in and run out,
 7 without being held accountable
 8 (applause.)

9 I'm furious for the way you
 10 presented; anyone who walked in here
 11 and saw your little presentation would
 12 say, why are these people so upset?
 13 They've covered every contingency.

14 C. Virginia's Field office sent
 15 a representative to the Sanitation
 16 hearing and I watched that man say, I
 17 don't understand why the people in the
 18 community are so upset, there, what did
 19 he say? They were exaggerating the
 20 problem. Because when you do your
 21 presentations, it makes it look like
 22 we're hysterical, in fact those were
 23 upset because he left before I could
 24 read him again, but we're not
 25 hysterical, we're angry because things

1
 2 from the very same school that we're
 3 speaking in tonight. So the garbage
 4 trucks will have to come pass kids
 5 playing in the courtyard. And you're
 6 less than 100 feet from Riverbank so
 7 you're violating your very own rules.
 8 And my little Title Nine lawsuit is
 9 nothing compared to what Columbia
 10 University will do to you guys once
 11 they build their dormitories and their
 12 research labs and then you have their
 13 students getting sick.

14 And I'm going to tell you
 15 something, I'm a long-distance runner,
 16 and I have run three New York City
 17 Marathons and I've got the medals to
 18 prove it, and I was 42 years old when I
 19 developed asthma, okay. I have three
 20 medals and that doesn't include all the
 21 half marathons I've run and all the
 22 10Ks, and I'm on Albuterol, and Advair
 23 and every now and then, steroids. So
 24 when they talk about childhood asthma,
 25 let's see some studies on how the

1
 2 are being foisted upon us; your little
 3 proposal with your little dotted lines
 4 showing where the trucks are going to
 5 go, ended where the trucks have to turn
 6 to get into the marine transfer
 7 station.

8 So it shows Broadway, is shows
 9 Amsterdam, they're going to make a
 10 right turn at Albuquerque and guess
 11 what Albuquerque is, 138th Street, my
 12 block (applause.) They cannot get to
 13 12th Avenue without coming past this
 14 very same school or coming down our
 15 block.

16 And when I read your website
 17 and as Norma pointed out, your very own
 18 guidelines say it cannot be within 400
 19 feet of a school, a park or a resident.
 20 People are leaving that part out. I
 21 live the next to the last house on West
 22 138th Street and it's 350 feet from my
 23 house to your station, so guess what,
 24 you guys will get a lawsuit from me,
 25 okay. You're 400, less than 400 feet

1
 2 adults are being affected. Because I
 3 know for a fact I was healthy as an ox,
 4 I was healthy as ten people before I
 5 moved into this neighborhood. And I
 6 breathe Riverbank, and I breathe the
 7 pollution and the diesel fumes, so if
 8 anyone thinks we're hysterical, I think
 9 not, I think that we're being fed
 10 garbage and I know you guys are garbage
 11 experts, but please, don't give it to
 12 us, because that's what we're getting,
 13 garbage.

14 And that's all this is. And
 15 the next time you hold a meeting I
 16 would like to see it at a time when
 17 working people in this community can
 18 come so that this arena is packed and
 19 you can hear more impact statements.
 20 Thank you (applause.)

21 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 22 All right, just as a clarification, we
 23 did hold off to 6:00 to start the final
 24 presentation.

25 **MS. REGINA MCRAE:** Oh, I'm

1
2 saying, you start them at 6:00?
3 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Well, we
4 started because we wanted to give an
5 opportunity for more people to come, we
6 held off to 6:00.

7 **MS. REGINA MCRAE:** Lot of
8 people can't get up here fast. If you
9 work in Midtown or Downtown you're not
10 getting up here to 7, 7:30 so everyone
11 say by the time I get here it will be
12 over so many people weren't able to
13 make it. Thank you.

14 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
15 Next speaker is Reverend Earl
16 Cooperkamp.

17 **MR. EARL KOOPERKAMP:** Good
18 evening, I'm Earl Cooperkamp, I'm the
19 pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal Church
20 which is the oldest institution in this
21 neighborhood, and part of our mission
22 for the last 180 years has been to work
23 for the benefit of this community.

24 I don't have any degree in
25 engineering, my training is in theology

1
2 This will continue to add to
3 the toxicity (mic problem) this will
4 continue to add to the toxicity of this
5 neighborhood and that's one of the
6 things that is not accounted for in
7 this plan, all these cumulative
8 effects, therefore, it's a fatal flaw.

9 The second point I want to
10 make, I'd like all my neighbors hear
11 who have been down for a while, let's
12 stand up for the community. So if I
13 could have everybody standing up,
14 please (audience complies) thank you my
15 neighbors.

16 Now what I'm going to do is,
17 this plan talks about us as sensitive
18 receptors. God created human beings,
19 not sensitive receptors and we're human
20 beings; because of that, this
21 environment is toxic to us.

22 I want, so if I could have
23 everybody, now everybody's standing up,
24 everybody who's got -- everybody who
25 does not have a respiratory or chronic

1
2 so if you bear with it, I'm want to
3 give you a theological analysis of why
4 this is a flawed plan.

5 First of all, if we use the
6 first book of the Bible, Genesis first
7 chapter, it says God created the
8 heavens and the earth. If you take a
9 holistic view, and this plan fails like
10 that, it only looks at the one, the
11 environmental impacts only of this
12 site, not the whole cumulative thing.

13 Many of these problems have
14 been pointed out; you call it
15 Riverbank, I call it the North River
16 Water Pollution Control Plant which is
17 a nice way of saying sewage treatment
18 plant.

19 Because of all these cumulative
20 effects, because of all these
21 cumulative effects, what that means is,
22 that means that there's a toxic
23 environment here, not the kind of
24 environment that God created, but
25 that's what we have around here.

1
2 condition, go ahead and sit down
3 (audience complies.) So how many of us
4 are left? How many of you have
5 respiratory conditions? You can see
6 the percentage, we -- this plan does
7 not take into effect the critical
8 health condition of this community.

9 That's only when you got a plan
10 that would be fair and would be just,
11 would acknowledge where the health of
12 this community is. We know that the
13 recent Harlem Hospital study, 25
14 percent of the children in this
15 neighborhood have pediatric asthma. We
16 heard from Ms. McCrae about more and
17 more cases of asthma developing in
18 later life.

19 The health of this community is
20 one of the most highly impacted areas
21 throughout the whole City. Because of
22 that as well and that this plan does
23 not take that into account, it also is
24 another fatal flaw.

25 Ultimately, I think this is an

1
 2 immoral, a sinful, an unjust and a
 3 racist plan and so we stand opposed to
 4 it. Thank you for your time
 5 (applause.)

6 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 7 Keith Mitchell or Marilyn Alexander.

8 **MS. G. MARILYN ALEXANDER:**
 9 Thank you, my name is G. Marilyn
 10 Alexander and I lived in this community
 11 since 1949, and you do the mathematics.

12 And I am always annoyed when
 13 one more thing comes in this community.
 14 Tonight I'm representing the North
 15 River Community Environmental Review
 16 Board, known as NRCERB, and this is our
 17 position: The North River Community
 18 Environmental Review Board strongly
 19 opposes any increase in the use of the
 20 135th Street Department of Sanitation
 21 marine transfer station.

22 For 18 years, NRCERB has fought
 23 against entities dumping on the West
 24 Harlem community.

25 First, the North River Waste

1
 2 residential streets, 138th Street.
 3 And with the steady stream of
 4 trucks coming down, you know what, it
 5 goes beyond what a drag that would be
 6 for quality of life. I have four
 7 children, my neighbors have children,
 8 there's a lot of children down the
 9 block, and this just potentially
 10 dangerous thing I just wouldn't want to
 11 see for that block, in addition to all
 12 the environmental health reasons and I
 13 guess that's about it. Thank you
 14 (applause.)

15 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 16 The next speaker is Walter South.

17 **MR. WALTER SOUTH:** Thank you.
 18 My name's Walter South. Looking at
 19 what you proposed here, I think that
 20 this absolutely fails as a plan. This
 21 is really a dumping program. This is a
 22 program that dumped the City's
 23 residence and commercial waste into our
 24 community.

25 As a community, we are ready to

1
 2 Water Treatment Plant, then the
 3 Manhattanville bus depot and now the
 4 marine transfer station. Enough is
 5 enough. It is unacceptable for this
 6 community to endure another facility;
 7 this is not a case of "not in my
 8 backyard," this is a case of equitable
 9 distribution of facilities and we in
 10 Harlem can no longer sustain the burden
 11 of carrying the load for other
 12 communities; we cannot and shall not.
 13 Please hear us. Thank you (applause.)

14 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
 15 David Bixler.

16 **MR. DAVID BIXLER:** Good
 17 evening, my name is David Bixler. I
 18 wanted to touch on the truck traffic.
 19 In the presentation as it was
 20 said just earlier, the trucks would be
 21 coming 155, 145 and 125th, and then the
 22 fine print, they'll turn down the side
 23 streets. And as far as I know, there's
 24 four streets that connect Broadway to
 25 12th Avenue. And I live on one of the

1
 2 assume the responsibility of our own
 3 trash, but we're not willing to assume
 4 responsibility for all of the Cities'
 5 trash.

6 I feel that each community
 7 board in the City has a responsibility
 8 to develop its own plan for trash
 9 disposal. The scheme which you're
 10 proposing is not acceptable at all.

11 In order to come up with a
 12 comprehensive waste management plan,
 13 it's your responsibility to develop a
 14 comprehensive plan which would include,
 15 for example, a pay-to-throw program in
 16 which people who create waste would
 17 have to pay for the waste that they're
 18 disposing (applause.)

19 It would call for a waste
 20 reduction program so that we have the
 21 zero waste. It will call for a
 22 packaging reduction program so we don't
 23 get all of the packaging that we are
 24 required to take away by anything in
 25 the stores of our community. It would

1
2 include a comprehensive recycling and
3 recovery program; it would include a
4 non-polluting carting program, in fact
5 I find your plan laughable that you're
6 using the 17 trucks from 135th Street
7 to the pier itself, leaving the 30 or
8 40 trucks still on 133rd Street to idle
9 while they're trying to get in the
10 plant to dump their garbage.

11 And I think a comprehensive
12 program would also include an end-point
13 program; where in the hell are you
14 going to put this garbage once you take
15 it out of the City?

16 In addition, you need to study
17 the alternative methods of moving
18 trash. Other cities do not use diesel
19 trucks. We need a non-polluting type
20 of conveyance to move this garbage to
21 wherever it has to be done.

22 Believe you me, this program
23 you're proposing is DOA, dead on
24 arrival. You've not done your homework
25 and until you have a comprehensive

1
2 were building the sewage disposal and
3 we had community meetings then. And
4 they came to us last and at which point
5 everybody in the City had turned it
6 down.

7 Harlem almost got it. Judge
8 Bakewell, Judge Baker Motley interfered
9 so they did not go on the East River.
10 But it came to us because at that point
11 there was very little community, our
12 meetings were very small, we had no
13 strength and hopefully there will not
14 be a reopening of that transfer station
15 at all in this community.

16 I'm so glad that Columbia has
17 done that study which the community
18 already knew that there were a higher
19 rates of cancer, cardiac cancer in this
20 community, and that by Columbia doing
21 that study on asthma, we now have
22 positive proof that there's loads of
23 pollution in this community and we
24 should not be exposed to anymore.
25 Actually, the community should be

1
2 plan, don't come back (applause.)
3 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you. C.
4 Commer? I'm sorry, Gomez.
5 **MS. GLORIA GOMEZ:** Good
6 evening, my name is Gloria Gomez, and
7 I've been in this neighborhood for 53
8 years. I am opposed to the reopening
9 of the marine transfer station in 135th
10 Street because I have four children
11 with asthma, five grandchildren with
12 asthma, and I also suffer from asthma.

13 The reopening of this marine
14 transfer station is a health hazard and
15 our lungs cannot take it any more. Why
16 are you so determined to bring this
17 burden? I should say additional burden
18 to this community. Can't you find
19 another place where there are no
20 humans? Thank you (applause.)

21 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
22 Kathleen Goodin.

23 **MS. KATHLEEN GOODIN:** I lived
24 in the community for over 30 years. I
25 I was part of the community when they

1
2 asking for the closing down of that
3 sewage disposal (applause.)

4 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.
5 Juanita Daviston.

6 **MS. JUANITA DAVISTON:** My name
7 is Juanita Daviston, and I live
8 directly across the street from the
9 sewage disposal plant, and I am very
10 much against having the aroma of
11 garbage and the aroma of sewage
12 mingling in my community.

13 We -- in fact, in our
14 community, we are an endangered
15 species. Mayor Bloomberg is committing
16 environmental racism and the reason I
17 say this is that when they were seeking
18 places to dispose of the garbage,
19 somebody suggested that they have the
20 incinerators reinstalled. Mayor
21 Bloomberg blew a gasket.

22 He was on television, he was on
23 the radio, he was on the news media,
24 yet, he can stand to see tons and tons
25 and tons of garbage in our

1
 2 neighborhood.
 3 Mayor Bloomberg is committing
 4 environmental racism. He -- Mayor
 5 Bloomberg forgets that the people
 6 elected him, we didn't elect Department
 7 of Sanitation and we are -- he is
 8 responsible for what happens in our
 9 community. He has just washed his
 10 hands of it and said let the Department
 11 of Sanitation take care of that. It's
 12 not that way. He's got to take
 13 responsibility for our community.
 14 Okay, that's all I have to say
 15 (applause.)

16 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.
 17 John Johnson.

18 MR. JOHN JOHNSON: Good evening
 19 ladies and gentleman, you are my
 20 neighbors, I'm glad that you all came
 21 out tonight.

22 I'm coming here to express my
 23 opposition to the proposed expansion
 24 and opening of the marine transfer
 25 station. And it's an outrage that this

1
 2 is going on in our community. I mean,
 3 when you look at these things, its
 4 policies on how the City enacts them,
 5 you look at the path of least
 6 resistance. And they gotta be looking,
 7 you know, when you look at all the
 8 environmental burdens that are already
 9 strapping our community, you look at
 10 the sewage treatment plant that
 11 processes over two hundred million
 12 gallons of raw sewage a day, you look
 13 at the bus depots that we have in our
 14 community. I believe we have the
 15 majority of them, six out of the seven,
 16 you look at all these byways and
 17 highways that bisect our communities,
 18 you hear about all the statistics about
 19 low birth weight, asthma rates, you
 20 know, and it doesn't seem as if you
 21 hear what's going on or seeing what's
 22 going on.

23 You know, this is a strong
 24 community, people came out to represent
 25 to tell you what they think about this,

1
 2 you hear all the statistics and you
 3 know, again with the path of least
 4 resistance, we're not going to take it
 5 anymore, this is an absolute outrage,
 6 we're not here to be pushed over.

7 As Ms. Ramos so eloquently laid
 8 out, there's tools that we have at our
 9 disposal now that we're going to use,
 10 and we're not going to take this lying
 11 down (applause.)

12 You know, it's amazing, you
 13 know, people saying well, you know, you
 14 look right across the street at the bus
 15 depot, you look at the vents and you
 16 look at this black soot that's built up
 17 there. Here, I don't think they gave
 18 us these masks (indicating) for no
 19 reason at all. I mean, I think they
 20 made sure they give these masks to you
 21 as well. Because all of our health is
 22 in danger, and we're at risk of
 23 contracting asthma or some other
 24 respiratory illnesses.

25 It's, you know, it's - when

1
 2 you look at the fairness issue, equity,
 3 what about that? Why Harlem? Again,
 4 do you think that you can come here
 5 again and drive some environmental
 6 burden on us?

7 You know, it's just makes me
 8 think about what do you think about the
 9 children? Would you have your children
 10 attend this school knowing that there's
 11 going to be a marine transfer station,
 12 there's a sewage treatment plant,
 13 there's bus depots and that their
 14 health is at risk? You know, if you
 15 lived in this community, you would be
 16 on this side of the table. You
 17 wouldn't be sitting over there and
 18 saying we going to do this, we going to
 19 do that, I mean, you really got to take
 20 these things into consideration, we got
 21 to take the future of the children into
 22 consideration, you gotta take the
 23 health of the residents into
 24 consideration and look at where we can
 25 site this thing, how we can mitigate

1
2 some of the effects of it, how can we,
3 you know, listen to the people and say,
4 well, what do you want and how can we
5 better do that?

6 I mean, have you looked at
7 alternative sites seriously? I mean,
8 is this the only site that you openly
9 came up with? Is that how it works? I
10 don't know, you have to tell me. But
11 what I know right now is that we're not
12 going to take this anymore. And you
13 know, the last thing I got to say is
14 NIMBY, not in my backyard. So I know
15 everybody here tonight is with me on
16 that, and I'd like to give you all
17 applause for coming out and expressing
18 your concerns about this project.
19 Thank you (applause.)

20 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.
21 Alexa Donaphin.

22 MS. ALEXA DONAPHIN: Good
23 evening, my name is Alexa Donaphin and
24 I have lived in this community for more
25 than 20 years. I'm an active member of

1
2 Station: Please enter into the record
3 for today's meeting and for your
4 records generally on this matter,
5 emphatically the absolute opposition of
6 the Hamilton Heights Homeowners'
7 Association to the proposed re-opening
8 and expansion of marine transfer
9 garbage station at 135th Street.

10 We are outraged by this latest
11 proposed instance of what is rightly
12 called environmental racism. It is
13 audacious and shameless to even
14 consider such a proposal for our
15 community, already burdened and very
16 near to this proposed facility with a
17 sewage treatment plant, diesel bus
18 depot, an enormous number of service
19 providers for ex-convicts, drug addicts
20 and the homeless sent to us from other
21 parts of the City and roughly since
22 9/11 the changed airline flight
23 patterns which assault our backyards
24 and the interiors of our homes and
25 apartments with noise pollution and the

1
2 the board of the Community Preservation
3 Organization, and the Hamilton Heights
4 Homeowners Association. I'm also the
5 acting president of the West 144th
6 Street Landmark Block Association.

7 All three of these
8 organizations are emphatically opposed
9 to the re-opening of the 135th Street
10 marine transfer station and have stated
11 this opposition previously in the form
12 of letters and petitions to the
13 Department of Sanitation.

14 Tonight I have been asked by
15 the president and vice president of the
16 Hamilton Heights Homeowner's
17 Association who were unable to attend
18 this meeting due to other commitments,
19 to read into the record the following
20 letter representing our membership of
21 over 300 tax-paying homeowners.

22 "June 16th, 2004 to the
23 Department of Sanitation regarding the
24 proposed re-opening and expansion of
25 the 135th Street Marine Transfer

1
2 resident -- the residue of jet fuel.

3 The proposal is also notably
4 inconsistent with many years of
5 promises and plans for waterfront
6 development around this same part of
7 West Harlem.

8 The redevelopment of Lower
9 Manhattan provides a perfect
10 opportunity for a more equitable and
11 likely more efficient means of securing
12 water access for garbage which is
13 closer to the source of that garbage
14 instead of trucking it up to us.

15 West Harlem can no longer
16 tolerate being treated as a City
17 dumping ground. We have spoken out
18 repeatedly on this as a community, and
19 we are disgusted that there are still
20 hearings when it's transparently unfair
21 and an attempt to abuse Harlem once
22 again. Sincerely Marcus Edward,
23 President, Deborah Stevenson, Vice
24 President of the Hamilton Heights
25 Homeowner's Association."

1
2 To this statement, and echoing
3 all of the previous comments, I wish to
4 add my personal and total, complete
5 opposition to the reopening of the West
6 135th Street marine transfer station
7 with its intended plagues of asthma and
8 other health disorders, not to mention
9 flies and vermin.

10 As a long-time (bell rings)
11 resident of Harlem and a community
12 activist, I am committed to the fight
13 against what is clearly a racist and
14 unjust proposal that must be defeated
15 by any means necessary. Thank you
16 (applause.)

17 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.
18 Cecil Corbin-Mark. Did Cecil step away
19 for a minute?

20 MR. CECIL D. CORBIN-MARK: Good
21 evening, the hour is long so I won't be
22 much longer.

23 My name is Cecil Corbin-Mark,
24 and I'm the program director of the
25 West Harlem Environmental Action. I'm

1
2 coalition's platform which is, I'm
3 going to pass over to you, includes
4 other things like the fact that the
5 135th Street marine transfer station
6 should remain closed; finding more MTS
7 capacity Downtown; the adoption of an
8 aggressive strategy for moving towards
9 a zero waste strategy, and a
10 moratorium on the siting of polluting
11 facilities in Northern Manhattan.

12 While we recognize the enormous
13 challenge that you face when you devise
14 a more environmentally-sound and
15 fiscally-responsible policy for dealing
16 with the City's garbage problem, we
17 urge you to exclude the 135th Street
18 MTS for the plan to reopen and expand
19 the City's MTS network.

20 Because to reopen this facility
21 which will be dependent on diesel
22 trucks, will exacerbate the already
23 epidemic levels of asthma and other
24 respiratory illnesses afflicting both
25 children and adults in Northern

1
2 also here this evening as a member of
3 the Northern Manhattan Environmental
4 Justice Coalition.

5 I recognize this evening that
6 we're gathered to discuss this scope of
7 the draft environmental impact
8 statement, but before addressing that
9 document, I want to again express the
10 opposition of West Harlem Environmental
11 Action and the Northern Manhattan
12 Environmental Justice Coalition, to the
13 proposal to re-open the 135th Street
14 garbage marine transfer station.

15 By way of background, the
16 Northern Manhattan Environmental
17 Justice Coalition is a coalition which
18 is comprised of 45 civic, community,
19 community development, education,
20 environmental organizations,
21 faith-based institutions and local
22 businesses, working with and serving
23 the predominately African-American and
24 Latino residents of Northern Manhattan.

25 Formed in February of 2003, the

1
2 Manhattan, and negatively impact the
3 environmental quality of life in the
4 neighborhood of already
5 disproportionately impacted by
6 polluting facilities.

7 It's important to call to your
8 attention, as others have, the reality
9 that your proposal does not exist in a
10 vacuum. Residents of Northern
11 Manhattan are exposed to the highest
12 levels of diesel pollution and the many
13 polluting facilities impacting our
14 neighborhoods, are major contributors
15 to the air quality problems in Northern
16 Manhattan.

17 Facilities such as the six
18 diesel bus depots, one which is right
19 across the street from this particular
20 school. Two of the City's largest
21 sewage treatment plants which also
22 operate on diesel, several sanitation
23 diesel vehicle garages and the only two
24 outdoor New York City Transit Authority
25 train yards in Manhattan have

1
 2 contributed to the poor air quality in
 3 Northern Manhattan.
 4 The pollution created from the
 5 combustion of diesel fuel is a major
 6 trigger for (mic problem) asthma --
 7 what do I need to do? Okay, is a major
 8 contributor to other respiratory
 9 illnesses.
 10 Asthma hospitalization rates
 11 are the highest in the Northern
 12 Manhattan zip codes and a
 13 nationally-funded study recently
 14 concluded that one and four children in
 15 Harlem were diagnosed with asthma.
 16 Moreover, according to a recent
 17 Columbia University School of Public
 18 Health, Children's Environmental Health
 19 Center Study, along with our
 20 organization, found that air pollution
 21 in this region is causing negative
 22 birth outcomes like low birth weight
 23 and head size.
 24 The idea of putting another
 25 facility that would generate more

1
 2 will have no choice but to oppose this
 3 plan by any means necessary.
 4 Turning now to the DEIS (bell
 5 rings), here are some important things
 6 that need to be examined. It really
 7 appears that DSNY has determined none
 8 of the four additional sites evaluated
 9 in the commercial waste study is
 10 suitable for export. However, the
 11 existing MTSs would also not be
 12 suitable for DSNY if you apply the same
 13 criteria. Apply the criteria fairly
 14 and equitably and we believe that you
 15 will find that the 135th marine
 16 transfer station should be off your
 17 drawing board.
 18 Secondly, the World Trade
 19 Center site should be a site for
 20 developing an MTS and rebuilding should
 21 be a part of what DEIS looks at. The
 22 DEIS should have all -- should have
 23 full disclosure about where solid waste
 24 will ultimately go. We are well aware
 25 of what it's like to have garbage

1
 2 diesel truck traffic than we had
 3 experienced prior the closure of 135th
 4 street MTS is incomprehensible to us.
 5 Especially in light of the public
 6 health burden already being borne by
 7 our residents.
 8 More diesel trucks in North
 9 Manhattan operated by the Sanitation
 10 Department and we haven't even begun to
 11 talk about the outrageous idea of
 12 moving commercial waste through the
 13 135th marine transfer station.
 14 We have a term to characterize
 15 this and you've heard it this evening
 16 many times, it's environmental racism
 17 and it's nothing else.
 18 If the Department is intent
 19 upon pursuing MTS plans and brings an
 20 extended MTS -- expanded MTS, more
 21 trucks than we have ever had to deal
 22 with, potential commercial truck
 23 impacts, a facility that will be built
 24 to permit the processing of more
 25 garbage that we produce Uptown, then we

1
 2 sitting on our waterfront, that's the
 3 experience of the 135th Street MTS when
 4 it was open.
 5 Odor impacts from the
 6 sanitation trucks which were a problem
 7 at the previous levels of sanitation
 8 truck traffic, should be evaluated at
 9 the anticipated volumes of DSNY-managed
 10 truck deliveries as well as potential
 11 commercial truck deliveries.
 12 Baseline airline studies should
 13 be conducted as long as -- as well as
 14 health studies in this community while
 15 the MTS is temporarily shut down so
 16 that we can really measure the impact
 17 of your proposed expanded operations.
 18 The fuel used by the
 19 top-loading machinery at the proposed
 20 expanded MTS needs to be clearly
 21 identified. If the machinery uses
 22 diesel fuel, then the contributions of
 23 that machinery to the already poor air
 24 quality in this area need to be
 25 analyzed by the DEIS.

1
2 Worst-case scenario is a
3 private waste vehicle pollution should
4 be included and anticipated impacts
5 form -- from the inclusion of
6 commercial waste in the stream to be
7 handled.

8 Worst-case scenario is private
9 waste haul vehicles' pollution should
10 be included as well. The DEIS should
11 establish a methodology for examining
12 the cumulative impacts of the existing
13 facilities and then model what the
14 expanded MTS would contribute to the
15 existing pollution that we breathe up
16 here.

17 Sensitive receptors, you need
18 to come to us as a community so we can
19 help define what sensitive receptors
20 are. Facilities like Fairway where we
21 shop for our food is a sensitive
22 receptor.

23 This very school where our
24 children go to is a sensitive receptor.
25 Another thing to be looked at, the

1
2 community, the overwhelming majority of
3 us are united in not having an encore
4 performance, foul-odored,
5 diesel-polluting history of the past.
6 We are a community that is looking
7 forward.

8 We have worked effectively in
9 partnership with the city EDC to
10 develop our waterfront park and we
11 stand ready to work with you to get
12 this crazy idea of expanding the MTS in
13 the communities which have the worst
14 health burden in Manhattan in a place
15 where it belongs, on the garbage heap.
16 Thanks (applause.)

17 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you very
18 much. Is there anybody else here who
19 signed up to speak who I didn't call?
20 Please come up.

21 State your name, please.

22 **MS. MARYANN KABSY OTERO:** Good
23 evening, my name is Maryann Kabsy
24 Otero.

25 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Can you spell

1
2 diffusion of localized impacts that
3 result from using too wide a lens for
4 analyzing the community must not be the
5 methodology employed for examining the
6 negative impacts of this particular
7 type of facility.

8 Let me conclude by saying this
9 to you: We have a long history of
10 getting promises of state-of-the-art
11 facilities, North River, Manhattanville
12 Bus Depot, the list could go on and on.
13 Schools that have had to be evacuated
14 shortly after they have been opened
15 because of leaking of toxic fumes, hold
16 your promises of state-of-the-art MTS,
17 we have heard them before and as
18 representatives of the City, you have
19 to carry the baggage or the garbage of
20 other city agencies' past action in
21 this community.

22 We're not here to beat up on
23 you, but we damn sure are here to
24 protect our community, for the past is
25 prologue for the future. And in this

1
2 your name for the stenographer?

3 **MS. MARYANN KABSY OTERO:**
4 Kabsy, K-A-B-S-Y, Otero, O-T-E-R-O.

5 **MR. SZARPANSKI:** Thank you.

6 **MS. MARYANN KABSY OTERO:** Part
7 of me -- I feel that part of me is
8 Latino and part of me African American.
9 I live in this neighborhood
10 with my family, and I find it not only
11 an environmental racism, if not a crime
12 to have such a dumping area right down
13 to the block from where kids run out
14 and play in the school.

15 I found the presentation very
16 poor, we didn't -- blurry thing with no
17 specifications; yes, there are details
18 on the website, but it was not enough
19 details of what really touches the
20 people. It was only a one-sided
21 business, I would call it, manner, it
22 was not thinking of what the impact
23 would be on the people, what effect
24 that it has; all this state-of-the-art
25 things that are consuming and eating up

1
 2 the right of people I find.
 3 I think the state-of-the-art
 4 thing should be brought into finding
 5 solutions to the whole garbage and
 6 other things that are impacting,
 7 especially this kind of area.
 8 It hurts when you go out and
 9 you see these children playing that
 10 have not enough opportunities to do
 11 other things, because of their
 12 backgrounds. Not only that, you choose
 13 to add into their misfortune by dumping
 14 more on to their future I would say, of
 15 depriving of them of the least things
 16 that they should have which is being
 17 healthy and running around and having
 18 opportunity to have a brilliant future,
 19 just like everybody in all the other
 20 areas of town.
 21 They have -- we have, all of us
 22 have enough things do to with as it is
 23 already, just look down, walking down
 24 the street, have you ever been stuck
 25 behind a garbage truck? I'm sure you

1
 2 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.
 3 Did any other speakers sign up who I
 4 didn't call.
 5 I thank you all for coming and
 6 making your views known to the
 7 Department and to the City. For those
 8 of you who want copies of the power
 9 point presentation, we'll have them up
 10 front here and I encourage you to write
 11 to the addresses contained in the power
 12 point and in literature out front and
 13 encourage your neighbors to do the
 14 same. Thank you.
 15 (Time noted 8:47 p.m.)
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1
 2 have, all of you have. Not only it's
 3 smells bad, you carry it with you so if
 4 you have that kind a truck circulating,
 5 hundreds of them during the day, you
 6 could only imagine what kind of air or
 7 quality of life you going to have.
 8 I really, I'm outraged and I
 9 found it not only a discrimination,
 10 it's really a crime, how can you even
 11 think of it? Where is all the advanced
 12 technology? How can you even mention
 13 that if you gonna think of even
 14 reopening something like that close to
 15 living people and creatures. It is a
 16 crime, should be ashamed (applause.)
 17
 18
 19 (Continued on the following
 20 page.)
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1
 2 C E R T I F I C A T E
 3 STATE OF NEW YORK)
 4 : ss.
 5 COUNTY OF NEW YORK)
 6
 7 I, Marc Russo, a Notary Public
 8 within and for the State of New York,
 9 do hereby certify that the within is a
 10 true and accurate transcript of the
 11 proceedings taken on Wednesday, June
 12 16th, 2004
 13 I further certify that I am not related to
 14 any of the parties to this action by
 15 blood or marriage and that I am in no
 16 way interested in the outcome of this
 17 matter.
 18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
 19 hand this 21st day of June, 2004.
 20
 21 _____
 22 MARC RUSSO
 23
 24
 25

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>Abbey 32:8 Abby 3:7 32:5,7 able 23:25 82:11 83:3,4 110:12 absolute 124:5 128:5 absolutely 85:10 116:20 abstract 53:12 abuse 129:21 accelerator 61:24 accept 54:7 99:11 acceptable 117:10 access 16:16 129:12 accommodate 16:24 20:12 73:12 account 49:22 51:2 51:19,22 52:14 53:9 56:5 113:23 accountable 106:7 accounted 112:6 accurate 145:10 accurately 22:9 acknowledge 113:11 acres 105:3 act 43:8 44:21 acting 127:5 action 11:6 12:11 35:5 38:21 93:14 130:25 131:11 139:20 145:14 actions 7:18 active 126:25 activist 42:5 130:12 actual 51:2 83:9 Adams 3:16 71:2,3 71:4 add 62:4,25 90:2 112:2,4 130:4 142:13 addicts 128:19 adding 49:25 addition 20:20 34:13 77:16 81:9 116:11 118:16 additional 23:4 58:25 79:17 99:6 119:17 136:8 Additionally 44:2 address 10:19,22 57:15 68:8 addresses 65:8,10 144:11 addressing 131:8</p>	<p>adds 40:10 adequate 66:4 67:23 adequately 65:2 adjacent 79:8 administration 46:11 admission 34:19 admissions 25:23 adoption 132:7 adults 109:2 132:25 Advair 108:22 advanced 13:3 143:11 adverse 77:24 103:19 advised 99:19 advisory 42:7 46:8 48:19 affect 34:17 52:25 54:6 afflicting 132:24 affluent 44:11 afraid 74:4 African 141:8 African-American 41:24 131:23 afternoon 19:25 52:19 105:21 age 47:25 74:3 agencies 139:20 agency 23:13 40:15 43:21 44:5,19,22 54:3 93:4 97:9 agent 14:24 ages 41:25 aggressive 132:8 ago 71:17 75:9,22 Aguas 3:10 46:16 46:17,22 ahead 29:19 98:13 113:2 ailments 24:6 air 14:16,23 15:3 25:17,20 26:15 35:5 36:23 60:7 61:25 74:9 81:20 82:10 133:15 134:2,20 137:23 143:6 airline 128:22 137:12 Airport 35:2 Albuquerque 107:10,11 Albuterol 108:22 Alexa 4:11 126:21</p>	<p>126:22,23 Alexander 4:4 114:7,8,10 allergens 60:18,22 allergy 60:10 allow 9:11 allowed 103:14 allows 53:13 alluded 61:2 alternative 11:14 11:18 27:4 75:5 88:9,10 103:8 118:17 126:7 alternatives 7:19 8:6,18 11:9 12:2 17:21 62:10 74:25 75:2 amazing 124:12 ameliorate 30:6 American 141:8 Americans 26:11 amount 29:23 40:11 62:22 83:2 85:16 amounts 28:24 Amsterdam 15:20 15:23 16:3 107:9 analysis 21:19,20 111:3 analyzed 23:18 137:25 analyzing 139:4 and/or 12:15 33:12 angers 30:19 angry 63:7 106:25 animals 57:9 announced 20:16 annoyed 114:12 answer 91:13 answers 37:9,9 anticipate 18:21 19:5 anticipated 18:13 18:23 19:2,10 22:14 137:9 138:4 anybody 56:11 140:18 anymore 87:25 120:24 124:5 126:12 apartments 128:25 apparently 44:9 50:16 appear 5:12 67:13 appears 23:2 65:13 136:7 applause 19:21</p>	<p>24:10 28:6 30:24 32:3 36:6 37:19 38:14,21 39:6 43:2 46:14 47:12 48:9 58:4 62:19 63:2 64:18 68:2 70:22 71:3 72:23 73:2 74:12 76:19 79:25 83:6,14 84:14 85:2,12 88:2,14 89:22 90:16 91:7 92:10 95:6 97:10 100:12 103:22 104:16 106:8 107:12 109:20 114:5 115:13 116:14 117:18 119:2,20 121:3 122:15 124:11 126:17,19 130:16 140:16 143:16 applied 44:6 apply 23:8 136:12 136:13 appraisal 101:17 appreciable 49:4 appreciate 70:7 appropriate 57:3 84:6 99:22 approve 88:6,13 93:6,11 approved 6:15 approximately 86:2 86:20 April 33:5 architects 46:3 architectural 69:3 architecture 5:19 68:17 area 12:12 13:23 21:7,14 22:19 35:2 43:24 47:15 50:8,17,23 51:3,6 51:15 52:16,25 63:22,25 74:20 86:24 98:2,4,8,15 100:20 101:22 102:6,13,20 137:24 141:12 142:7 areas 21:17 23:20 25:16 100:18 101:20 113:20 142:20 arena 109:18 armed 91:24</p>	<p>Armory 71:18 Arnold 2:10 5:14 aroma 121:10,11 aromatic 61:7 arrival 118:24 Arroyo 43:9 ashamed 143:16 Asian 86:2 asked 35:10 99:13 127:14 asking 121:2 assault 128:23 Assembly 100:17 assessed 22:21 assigned 8:22 assist 46:10 assistant 2:4 5:5 associated 61:12 association 36:12 61:4 68:7 74:19 104:5 127:4,6,17 128:7 129:25 assume 117:2,3 asthma 25:10,12 26:10 34:20 36:22 40:20 58:16,20,25 59:2,5,8,13,22 60:5,10,20,21,23 61:17 62:6 71:6 71:20,25 73:20,24 74:3 81:21,23 82:2 94:24 95:2 103:13 108:19,24 113:15,17 119:11 119:12,12 120:21 123:19 124:23 130:7 132:23 134:6,10,15 asthmatic 37:4 71:12 73:23 attacks 60:21 attempt 129:21 attend 32:12 63:22 125:10 127:17 attention 101:9 133:8 attorney 38:19 attorneys 42:4 audacious 128:13 audience 105:25 112:14 113:3 August 18:24 19:8 Authority 26:3 34:3 40:5 133:24 auto 60:4 available 8:11 11:2 19:13</p>
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