

## **Testimony in support of the citizens within the Buzzard Point neighborhood of Ward 6**

**I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of the citizens within the boundary of the Buzzard Point neighborhood. My name is Elgloria Harrison, I am a citizen of the District of Columbia, ward 7 resident. I am the Special Assistant to the Dean of the College of Agriculture Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science at the University of the District of Columbia (CAUSES), and I am a Registered Respiratory Therapist by profession with more than 30 years in actual practice. My area of expertise and research has been in Asthma and respiratory care particularly in children.**

**I am here to advocate for quality respiratory care and that this is provided to all people and particularly those in the Buzzard Point neighborhood. My professional role is to speak up, to remind those who care, that the quality of air we breathe contributes to our quality of life as citizens. Quality of life for all citizens should be valued as an attribute and weighted in equal proportion to the economic viability of a city. As a long time health care provider, I see that the health and well-being of citizens in our city as an important conversation that we cannot dismiss based on the citizenry of any of our neighborhoods.**

**While I had the opportunity to read the recent CHASS report, it was clear that the report was not able to pinpoint the actual residents of Buzzard Point directly. The report was able to demonstrate an overview of the health statistics in those within the 20024 zip code and compared it to the overall Washington, DC. In some areas, it appears that Buzzard point is doing better than and in other areas it appears less so. While we appreciate this report, the numbers do not tell the whole story. As a respiratory therapist, with experience with patients with asthma, COPD, lung disease, and heart disease, we are far too familiar with the number of patients that come into the emergency room gasping for air. We believe this part of the story has not been told for those citizens who suffer from these chronic conditions in Buzzard Point. We further believe that given the opportunity to speak with the residents about their health challenges will provide a far greater revelation, that just the numbers alone.**

**What we know is that Asthma has been at epidemic proportion in the District of Columbia and a higher prevalence in wards 5, 6, 7, 8. We know that COPD is the fifth leading cause of death in DC with the highest in Ward 5. We know the CHASS report was not able to reveal a very clear picture of the prevalence of COPD in Ward 6 and this concerns us greatly. We believe the CHASS report may have underestimated the prevalence of respiratory conditions in the Buzzard Point neighborhood and this greatly concerns us as well.**

### **What we would like to see prior to construction:**

**Establish baseline of health data in the Buzzard Point neighborhood of every citizen that live in this area;**

**Assess to the plan that demonstrates how Buzzard Point citizens will be protected against dust particles, excessive noise, and inability to walk safely through their neighborhood;**

**Provide air purifiers to all residents who are determined to be at risk for respiratory exacerbation of their already chronic condition.**

**I appreciate the opportunity to provide my testimony on behalf of the citizens in Buzzard Point.**