

# TESTIMONY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILTY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Monday, November 28, 2016

### I. INTRODUCTION

Good morning, Chair Constantinides and members of the committee. I am Susanne DesRoches, Deputy Director of Infrastructure Policy in the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR). I am testifying today on behalf of both ORR and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about in-city power plants and the de Blasio administration's efforts to improve air quality in New York City. I am joined here today by my colleagues Anthony Fiore, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Geraldine Kelpin, Director of Air and Noise Policy and Enforcement at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Iyad Kheirbek, Director of the Air Quality Program at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Speaker and Chairperson for their support of the de Blasio Administration's action on climate change. The political dynamics in Washington have made the Council and administration's partnership more important than ever. While the incoming presidential administration raises more questions than answers for now, I want to assure the City Council that whatever changes occur, the de Blasio Administration will continue working every day to prepare our city for the impacts of climate change as well as provide more just environmental outcomes for all New Yorkers.

#### **II. IN-CITY POWER PLANTS**

To understand how the city's power plants affect air quality, it is necessary to look at the broader emissions landscape in New York City. Air pollution is mainly a result of fuel combustion within and outside the city. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Emissions Inventory, in New York City, 49 percent of all fine particulate matter ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) emissions come from buildings, 24 percent from traffic, 19 percent from non-road mobile sources, seven percent from electric-power generation and one percent from other sources. According to the New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS), from 2009-2014, the most important predictors of high neighborhood levels of  $PM_{2.5}$  and nitrogen dioxide ( $NO_2$ ) are indicators of traffic density and building density.

Looking more closely at the power plants, there are 24 in-city power plants containing 121 generating units with a combined capacity of approximately 10,000 megawatts (MW) – enough to meet over 80 percent of the city's peak demand as required by the New York Independent System Operator, Inc. (NYISO). The majority of the generating units rely on natural gas as their primary fuel and different types of fuel oil as backup, which is required to meet reliability standards. Burning natural gas and fuel oil impacts air quality; in particular, heavier fuels emit harmful air pollutants at a higher rate than other fuels used in power plants in the city.

The age of the power generating equipment is another factor impacting air quality. In Astoria, Queens – which is home to the densest cluster of power plants in New York City – there are five major plant facilities with 29 generating units of which three are 10 years or younger, and operate primarily on natural gas and use fuel oil No. 2 and kerosene for backup. These three newer plants, which generate 91 percent of energy produced in Astoria, are

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more efficient and emit less air pollution and greenhouse gases (GHG) relative to each unit of energy produced than the older plants.

#### III. OUR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN AIR

While all New Yorkers have a stake in improved air quality, there are disparities within the city in both exposures and pollution-attributable health outcomes. Exposures to air pollutants can affect the cardiovascular and respiratory system, increasing risks of hospitalizations, emergency room visits and premature deaths. Poor health outcomes can also result in lost work and school days, adversely impacting individual and citywide economic prosperity. The DOHMH has clearly documented that poor health outcomes resulting from poor air quality occur disproportionately in high poverty communities. For example, the rate of asthma emergency room visits attributable to  $PM_{2.5}$  is three times higher in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods compared to more affluent ones. Reduction in pollution emissions from predominant sources throughout the city will help reduce these health disparities.

While there is clearly still work to be done, air quality in our city has improved greatly in the past several decades, with levels of harmful air pollutants in the past few years well below concentrations of just 10 years ago. According to the NYCCAS, the largest ongoing, street-level urban air-monitoring program of any U.S. city, between 2009 and 2014 the annual average concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  declined significantly by about 16 percent. As a result, the city's air-quality ranking among major U.S. cities has recently improved from seventh place to fourth place.

A key factor in this has been the phase out of the use of the dirtiest heating oils in buildings. In 2011, DEP issued regulations requiring buildings to convert from No. 6 and No. 4 heavy heating oils to cleaner fuels. The phase out of all No. 6 heating oil was completed June 30, 2015 while the deadline for phase out of the No. 4 is January 1, 2030. To date, DEP has achieved 99.8 percent compliance with the regulation. Nearly 6,000 buildings have converted to cleaner fuels, many with assistance provided through the NYC Clean Heat program. By January 2030, when the phase out is complete, the City will have prevented nearly 1,500 tons of  $PM_{2.5}$  from entering our air.

As these buildings have switched to a cleaner burning fuel, New York City's air quality has improved, preventing approximately 210 premature deaths and 540 hospitalizations annually. Neighborhoods with the highest density of boiler conversions – such as northern Queens, northern Manhattan, and the South Bronx – saw the greatest improvement in air quality, with the greatest proportion of health benefits occurring in vulnerable, high poverty areas.

Moreover, in May 2015, the City, working with the Council, enacted changes to the air pollution control code (Local Law No. 38). The law went into effect in May 2016 and requires all permitted entities, including in-city power plants using steam-generating boilers for electricity generation, to completely phase out the use of No. 6 by 2020 and No. 4 by 2030; thereby prohibiting *any* use of No. 6 or No. 4 fuel oil in the city.

### IV. 80 X 50 AND ONENYC

We are not stopping there. In September 2014, the City committed itself to reducing GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050 ( $80 \times 50$ ) with an interim target of 40 percent by 2030 ( $40 \times 30$ ), and we took immediate steps to achieve that goal. We committed billions of dollars to reduce our own carbon footprint with investments in energy efficiency for municipal buildings. In April 2015, with the release of OneNYC, we expanded our commitment to 80 x 50 with new investments in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and solid waste management that are catalyzing air quality improvements across the city.

We want this trend to continue; that is why we are moving away from fossil fuels. Since Mayor de Blasio took office, the City has nearly quadrupled its solar energy capacity from 25 MW to 96 MW. This puts us on track to meet our goals of installing 100 MW of solar power on public buildings and 250 MW on private buildings by 2025. This past September, the Mayor set a new goal of 1,000 MW of citywide solar capacity by 2030. To put this in context, 1,000 MW of solar capacity can meet the power needs of more than 250,000 households. To better utilize this energy, the Mayor also set the City's first ever energy storage target of 100 MWh by 2020. This target will help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase the City's energy resiliency.

### V. NEXT STEPS

With OneNYC, the City is committed to inclusive climate action that works for all New Yorkers. This means continuing to improve air quality citywide and in particular, alleviating disparities across communities, especially for vulnerable populations. There are several steps we intend to take:

First, given the share of air pollutants coming from older power plants like those in Astoria, the City will continue to encourage repowering of older generation equipment. Although previous attempts to remove potential barriers to repowering were unsuccessful, the City will continue to evaluate possible rule changes and other options to encourage the closure or repowering of older power plants. Replacement or repowering of older plants will also help meet our 80 x 50 goals.

Second, the City will continue to pursue expansion of the electric transmission system to provide its residents and businesses greater access to renewable resources located in other regions. To this end, in September 2016 the City submitted comments to the NYISO encouraging it and the New York State Public Service Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the infrastructure required to deliver large-scale clean renewable energy from upstate New York to the city.

Lastly, the City is actively working to integrate large-scale renewable resources directly into New York City's supply mix. We are evaluating the technical and financial feasibility, as well as the benefits, of direct links between the electric system in the city and different types of renewable resources.

Combined, these steps will help facilitate the retirement of older, less efficient plants while preserving the reliability of the electric system. Equally important, they will also continue to move us toward our OneNYC goal of having the cleanest air of any large city in the country.

### VI. CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We share your goals to protect and improve air quality in New York City to benefit all New Yorker's health and the city's economic prosperity. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

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Testimony of Michael Seilback, Vice President, Public Policy & Communications on behalf of the American Lung Association of the Northeast

November 28, 2016

## RE: Oversight - The City's in-City Power Plants

## <u>Res. No. 320 - calling on the state of New York to phase out Number 4 and</u> <u>Number 6 fuel oil in power plants in its plan to meet carbon dioxide reduction goals as</u> <u>set by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan</u>

Thank you Chairman Constantinides and members of the Environmental Protection Committee for taking the time for this hearing today. My name is Michael Seilback and I am the Vice President of Public Policy & Communications for the American Lung Association of the Northeast. Healthy air is central to our mission, which is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. We know that polluted air can shorten lives, and can cause or worsen lung diseases like lung cancer, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Air pollution can harm anyone, even healthy adults, but for many, pollution can threaten their lives and leave them with long-term consequences. Children and teens; older adults; people who have chronic lung diseases, such as asthma; those who have cardiovascular disease and diabetes; and those with low incomes—all are more vulnerable. Children and adolescents are at risk of developing complications now that could follow them around the rest of their lives; lives that may be cut short from exposure to harmful pollutants. We need to take every step we can to provide cleaner, healthier air for all of us.

For far too long communities surrounding our power plants have breathed the worst of the air pollution, including ozone, particle pollution and a cocktail of other toxic emissions. While the Clean Air Act along with strong state and local regulations have forced power plants across the country to drastically reduce their levels of pollution, far too many residents remain exposed to elevated levels of pollutants. For the health of New Yorkers, it is imperative that the City continue its efforts to expand renewable energy production including expansion of wind, solar and tidal energy.

Much of New York City's locally-produced power comes from power plants including Arthur Kill, Astoria, Brooklyn Navy Yard, East River, Glenwood, Ravenswood and Far Rockaway. These plants range from natural gas to cogeneration to oil-burning. Additionally, there still are smaller units that are being used which have even less pollution controls.

The American Lung Association's annual "State of the Air" report gives grades to communities across the country for levels of air pollution. Each year the "State of the Air" reports on the two most widespread outdoor air pollutants, ozone pollution and particle pollution. The report analyzes particle pollution in two ways: through average annual particle pollution levels and short-term spikes in particle pollution. Both ozone and particle pollution are dangerous to public health and can be lethal. Our most recent report illustrated once again why further action is needed to clean our air. While the report has shown that in New York City and across the country, air quality has shown drastic improvement since the 1960s and 70s. However, millions of New Yorkers continue to live in counties that received failing grades for air pollution. Here in New York City, Queens, Staten Island, the Bronx and Manhattan all received F grades for ozone (Brooklyn did not have a monitor to report ozone days), The New York metro area remains one of the few eastern cities on the most polluted list for ozone.

Nationwide, ozone pollution has decreased because the nation has cleaned up major sources of the emissions that create ozone, especially coal-fired power plants and vehicles. However, according to research, climate change causes warmer temperatures, which makes ozone harder to clean up. Nationwide, the best progress in this year's report came in reducing year-round levels of particle pollution. All counties in the New York metro area received a passing grade for year-round particle pollution. To be clear, New York's air pollution problems are not simply a result of locally produced power plant emissions, but are also a result of vehicle emissions, heating oil combustion and even from coal-fired power plants located in the Midwest.

Power plants are the largest stationary source of carbon pollution in the United States. The electric sector contributed 40 percent of all energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in 2013. Scientists tell us that carbon pollution contributes to a warming climate, enhancing conditions for ozone formation and making it harder to reduce this lethal pollutant. Climate change also leads to particle pollution from increased droughts and wildfires. Taking steps to reduce carbon pollution from electricity generation will also reduce ozone and particle pollution from these plants at the same time. EPA's own analysis shows that these co-benefits can prevent up to 3,600 premature deaths and up to 90,000 asthma attacks in children in 2030.

US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy recently declared, "We know that climate change means higher temperatures overall, and it also means longer and hotter heat waves... higher temperatures can mean worse air in cities, and more smog and more ozone. We know that more intense wildfires will mean increased smoke in the air. And we know that earlier springs and longer summers mean longer allergy seasons." To protect our communities and the public, the United States must significantly reduce carbon pollution

> from the largest source, existing power plants. The Lung Association was proud to support the Clean Power Plan, and is now working in states across the country to ensure that the rule is implemented in a way that maximizes the benefits to human health. We are glad that the City and State of New York have taken proactive measures to move forward with action to address climate change and we call on both the City and State to continue these efforts regardless of how the courts and /or the Trump Administration decide to act with regard to the Clean Power Plan.

> Over the last several years, New York City has taken proactive steps to address a major source of both carbon pollution and air pollution: the combustion of dirty heating oil in heating systems. The elimination of #6 oil and the phase of #4 oil will help reduce a major source of New York City's particle pollution, and will also lead to reductions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NOx, and CO<sub>2</sub>. While heating systems have drastically improved, New York City continues to allow the combustion of #4 and #6 in another major source of New York City's locally-produced air pollution: power plants, especially those concentrated in Western Queens. We support the passage of Reso 320 which calls on New York State to phase out the burning of #4 and #6 oil in New York's power plants.

The Lung Association has an old tagline you may remember, if you can't breathe, nothing else matters. Those words hold true today as they have for decades. We call on the Council to heed that important mantra and move forward on iniatives that will not only clean up the air we breathe, but will lead to healthier New Yorkers who will live longer, more vibrant lives. Thank you.

For more information, contact Michael Seilback, 631.415.0946 or <u>Michael.Seilback@lung.org</u>.

## New York City Council Hearing, Resolution 0320-2014, Environmental Protection Committee, CM Costa Constantinides, Chair; November 28, 2016, 250 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor New York City, 10:00 AM; Testimony of Catherine Skopic

Good Morning. My name is Catherine Skopic and I am a member of the People's Climate Movement, New York Steering Committee, a member of Sierra Club and am its New York City Group Representative to the People's Climate Movement, New York and am a member of the Board of Directors for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate. Thank you for introducing this resolution and providing the opportunity to address this phasing out of #4 and #6 fuel oil for in-City power plants in the effort to meet carbon dioxide reduction goals as set by the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Energy Plan.

## Three points I would like to make:

1. Both # 4 and #6 oil have heavy concentrations of particulates that contribute to airborne diseases such as asthma and related lung diseases as well as spew massive amounts of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere that prevent us from meeting the EPA's goal as well as the commitment we made to the United Nations Climate Agreement December 12, 2015. Eliminating #4 and #6 oil is is necessary for health of people and planet..

2. Natural gas, or methane, is at least 60 times more greenhouse gas producing than is oil. Therefore, replacing #4 and #6 oil with natural gas although reduces particulates, does not reduce our carbon dioxide emissions but increases greenhouse gases, getting us further away from the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Energy Plan. Emphatically, we cannot forget the disastrous effects of fracking for natural gas: use of thousands of gallons of water to frack each well at a time when water is becoming increasingly scarce; contaminating pristine sources of drinking water; gas pipeline explosions killing people and poisoning animals, plants, land, water and air; causing earthquakes (see Oklahoma). Although fracking has been banned in New York state, gas pipelines crisscross our state carrying gas from Pennsylvania and other states. By replacing oil with gas, we further support this destructive industry that is becoming increasingly economically bankrupt.

3. It takes time to build renewable energy infrastructure, but we could do this one power plant at a time. We know that renewable energy systems supply more, higher-paying and permanent jobs, increasing our economic and tax base and they actually get us to the New York City, New York State and United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Energy Plan. I ask - no plead with - you to invest our energy dollars in solar, wind, heat pumps, storage, geothermal and community-based aggregates that function locally and independently, making us more resilient in storms and all actually reduce carbon dioxide.

I call to your attention the fact that Mayor de Blasio has pledged to switch out New York City electricity contracts to renewable energy sources when the present contracts are up... This is fine incentive, as I know the City Council and Mayor's Office so frequently work hand in hand in support of one another. This is the time to hop on that renewable energy train! (or should I say subway).

Respectfully and in PEACE, Catherine Skopic, November 27, 2016



## Testimony of Louis Bailey before the NYC Council Committee on Environmental Protection concerning he City's in-City Power Plants, and Res. No. 320

Good morning to all of the members of the Committee on Environmental Protection for the New York City Council. My name is Louis Bailey, community organizer at WEACT for Environmental Justice. I am here today on behalf of our organization to testify regarding state's position to transition fuel oil types in power plants, based on reduction goals set by the EPA's clean power plan.

As noted in resolution 320, the state of New York has the opportunity to phase out numbers 4 and 6 fuel oil, in exchange for number 2 fuel oil. This process has been replicated by private organizations, such as Con Edison, and has proven itself cost effective. It also presents an opportunity to significantly reduce particulate matter emissions, relevant to the Clean Power Plan.

While these are important benefits, we believe the most important impact of this transition will be the impact on public health. We support the city of New York, in their efforts to phase out harmful pollution sources that pose a threat to city residents and beyond, and believe it a step in the right direction to improving public health.

Our organization has been at the forefront of the fight for the health of communities that are historically vulnerable to environmental injustices, including exposure to air pollution. Historically, Northern Manhattan has been overburdened by air pollution due to facilities such as, bus depots and marine transfer stations. On top of this, many buildings have burned number 6 and number 4 fuel oil, that have contributed to poor air quality in our community. As a result, asthma and other respiratory illnesses have diminished the health of residents, creating a toxic legacy that reduces the livelihood of residents.

In the past, the fuel oil transition has been limited by costs and other hurdles. However, this policy presents an opportunity to deliver justice in effected communities, and protect others from severe pollution exposure. We hope that you will keep our community in mind, as you make such an impactful decision to support public health, and will be happy to answer any related questions.

## November 28, 2016

Dear Chairman Costa Constantinides:

My name is Ling Tsou. I'm a co-founder of United for Action, a grassroots group in New York City working to end our addiction to fossil fuel and nuclear power and advocating for renewable energy.

We agree with resolution 320 calling on New York State to phase out Number 4 and Number 6 fuel oil in power plants. The burning of Number 4 and Number 6 fuel oil in power plants produces high level of emission of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides associated with negative health impacts, including decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, respiratory symptoms and premature death. Many of these power plants are clustered in environmental justice communities. If we stop burning Number 4 and Number 6 oil, this will decrease the levels of harmful pollutants emitted into the air and inhaled by many people.

While burning of Number 2 oil and natural gas in power plants produce lower level of air pollutants, we are still burning fossil fuel which will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming and climate change. 2016 is on track to be the hottest year in our planet's recorded history, smashing 2015's record heat. Natural gas is not a green energy nor is it a "transitional" fuel. Natural gas is methane which is a potent greenhouse gas, 85 times more potent than carbon dioxide when measured over a 20-year time frame. Increased natural gas usage and expansion of natural gas infrastructure will lead to more fracking and greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbate climate change. Now is the time we must invest in energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change and not prolong our dependence on fossil fuel.

Climate change is the most critical issue of our generation. We need to leave fossil fuel in the ground and urgently switch to renewable energy sources before it's too late.

Thank you.

Ling Tsou, United for Action

Con Edison Comments on Resolution 320 New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection November 28, 2016

My name is Christina Ho and I am the General Manager for Steam Services at Con Edison. I am submitting comments today on Council Resolution No. 320, a resolution calling on the state of New York to phase out #6 and #4 fuel oil in power plants to meet carbon dioxide reduction goals as set by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. I am pleased to report that Con Edison has already added natural gas capability to significantly reduce reliance on fuel oil at our steam/electric generating facilities. Additionally, in accordance with City policy, we have plans to transition away from using #6 and #4 fuel oils. Fuel oil is currently only used as a back-up supply which allows Con Edison to maintain fuel diversity to ensure reliability for our customers.

Con Edison is committed to reducing our carbon footprint while providing our customers with safe and reliable energy service. We reduced our carbon footprint by 48 percent from 2005 to 2015. Additionally, Con Edison is working to help our customers use energy more efficiently and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well. As noted in the Council's resolution, Con Edison is actively supporting the City's efforts to convert commercial and residential boilers from fuel oils to cleaner burning natural gas. More than 5,200 buildings in Con Edison's New York City service territory have converted from oil to natural gas in recent years— the equivalent of taking 1.2 million cars off the streets. While Con Edison divested its electric generating facilities in the 1990s, the Company continues to own generating plants to serve the largest district steam system in the country. The steam system serves approximately 1,650 customers in Manhattan and is used for space heating, hot water, air conditioning and various other processes such as sterilizing medical equipment. The steam system provides significant environmental benefits by reducing the need for on-site boilers at customers' premises and through cooling that offsets nearly 290 Megawatts of electric demand. Hospitals, schools, firehouses, NYCHA developments and iconic buildings such as the Empire State Building and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are among our steam customers. To provide energy efficiently, over half of the steam produced for our system is also used to generate electricity.

As noted in the text of Resolution No. 320, Con Edison has made significant investments to add gas capacity at the 74<sup>th</sup> Street and 59<sup>th</sup> Street generating stations. These additional investments enable these stations to use natural gas as the primary supply with fuel oil only used as a backup. This expansion of the use of natural gas has not only saved our customers money, but has also served to reduce carbon dioxide emissions substantially. In 2015, the two stations combined saw a 26 percent reduction in CO2 emissions compared to the 2008-2009 average.

At this point, Con Edison's steam system relies on natural gas rather than fuel oil for more than 90 percent of its supply. Fuel oil is necessary for fuel diversity but it is essentially a backup resource at this time. This dual-fuel capability is particularly important for maintaining reliability and moderating price impacts during periods of high demand for natural gas. For Con Edison, the cost of fuel, whether natural gas or oil, is passed through to customers.

Con Edison's generating facilities are on schedule to transition away from using #6 and #4 fuel oils, in accordance with New York City Department of Environmental Protection requirements. We have plans underway to convert equipment to stop using #6 fuel oil by 2020 and #4 fuel oil by 2030. During the course of this transition, we will be investing funds to modify equipment such as burners, pumps and tanks to convert to a lighter fuel oil.

The State of New York has indicated that it intends to submit its marketbased program – the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI – as its primary strategy for Clean Power Plan compliance. Con Edison has been a participant in the RGGI program from its inception and RGGI has played a role in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. As the state-wide cap on carbon dioxide emissions continues to decline under the RGGI program, the market price of carbon dioxide allowances will continue to provide a financial incentive for power plants to use natural gas while still maintaining the key reliability backstop of fuel oil. These market forces, coupled with the City's plan for transitioning off of the heavier fuel oils, would be an effective statewide approach.

Once again, thank you again for the opportunity to present on this important topic.

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Claudia Guglielmo, MPA, AE-C Director – Asthma Coalition of Queens Remarks to the NYC Council Environmental Conservation Committee November 28, 2017

Good morning. Thank you Chairman Constantinides and members of the Environmental Conservation Committee for holding this important hearing today. My name is Claudia Guglielmo and I am the director of the Asthma Coalition of Queens. The Asthma Coalition of Queens is one of 8 regional asthma coalitions across NY State funded by the NYS DOH. The ACQ was established in 2012 with a contract with the American Lung Association of the Northeast

Working in the very diverse county of Queens our mission is to reduce the burden of asthma by engaging patients, families, health care providers, and the community .

Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs that causes airways to tighten and swell. The tightening, inflammation, and excess mucus during an asthma attack narrows the airways significantly, which makes breathing extremely difficult. This happens as a result of exposure to asthma triggers.

Asthma is a multifactorial disease that develops from various risk factors, many of them environmental. Pollution and other particulate matter can trigger an asthma attack and make asthma symptoms worse.

Here are 4 important things to note about the impact of asthma on our community:

Asthma costs NYS about 1.3 billion dollars annually in direct medical expenses and lost productivity. (NYS Controllers office)

Over 200,000 children suffer from asthma citywide.

In an average classroom of 30 students – 3 will have asthma.



The asthma hospitalization and emergency department visit rate for children in NYC is an alarming three times the state rate. It is important to understand that we refer to children's rates of asthma they bear the most burden of the disease. (2012-2014 SPARCS data).

As you have heard this morning, in New York City, local power plant production is concentrated in Western Queens. With increased power plants comes increased power plant emissions which are a major trigger for people with asthma.

In Council District 22 and the surrounding areas we have rates of asthma hospitalizations and emergency department visits that exceed the Queens county average: This is especially striking for children 0-17 years old emergency department visits in the Long Island City, Astoria, East Elmhurst, and Jackson Heights.

Anything we could do to reduce air pollution from all sources will benefit the health of residents living not only near these sources, but will improve the air that all New Yorkers breathe. To be clear, improving air quality is not a magic bullet that will cure asthma, but asthma trigger reduction will result in improvement in health outcomes for people who suffer from asthma on a daily basis in our most disparate communities.



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	I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No in favor in opposition Date: 11/28/16
	(PLEASE PRINT) Name: Iyad Kheirbek
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	I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No [X in favor ] in opposition Date:/JS//6
	Name: Michop (PLEASE PRINT) Address: 21 w 38th St. 3rd FL
	I represent: AMelican Lung ASSOCATION
	Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms