Message

From: VB/I-70 Community Advisory Group [vbi170cag@gmail.com]
Sent: 3/5/2020 12:36:44 AM
To: Wharton, Steve [Wharton.Steve@epa.gov]
Subject: REMINDER: CAG MARCH MEETING/CHUCK NORRIS UPDATE/ LANPHEAR:"NO SAFE LEVELS"/ & MORE

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Newsletter

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

EPA Vasquez Blvd./ I-70 Superfund Site

Denver, Colorado

REMINDER

March CAG Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 17,2020, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: Focus Points Family Resource

2501 East 48th Ave. 80216

Other Important Meetings:

NEDFans/ Sunday , March 8 , 2:00 - 4:00PM /

4909 East 23rd Ave, 80207

GES & Partners: Thursday, March 19, 5:00- 7:00 PM,

Johnson's Rec Center, 4809 Race St, 80216

CONGRATULATION LEMONE NOLES

NEW CAG ADMINISTRATOR

LaMone Noles has been a life long resident of Denver. She grew up in Five Points and when red lining permitted, her family moved to Northeast Park Hill, close to the Vasquez Bl./I-70 Superfund Site.

LaMone has served as President of the Registered

Neighborhood Organization (RNO), City Park

Friends and Neighbors(CPFAN) and Park Hill

ACORN. She is a Board Member,

of RNO, Greater Park Hill Community(GPHC),

and President of RNO, Northeast Denver Friends

And Neighbors (NEDFans).

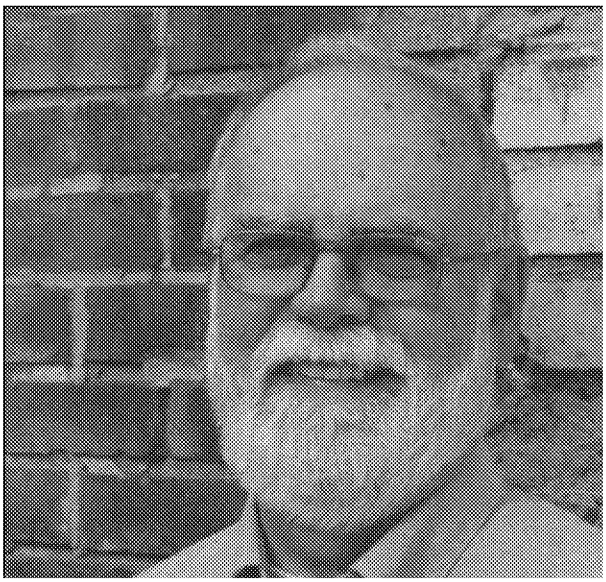
She has been an active member of the

Vasquez Bl. /I-70 Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG) serving as its facilitator and recently received the Inter Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), Neighborhood Star Award.

LaMone received a BS in Business Management from Metropolitan State College in Denver. LaMone was employed as a victim advocate and at the Veterans Administration. She is now retired.

Video: Construction OU2 VB/I-70, Operable Unit 2

EXPERT'S CORNER



(Click on image for resume)

Chuck Norris, CAG Technical Advisor

At the February CAG meeting, Mr. Norris shared the following information about EPA, CDPHE and Denver's progress in defining the parameters of Operable Unit 2 and on the proposed "clean up" of an historic Denver Municipal Dump.

Mr. Norris offered strong words and cautions

for the agencies and the residents of Denver:

"Masking the municipal-dump wastes with an arbitrary (and capricious) classification as RACS, in lieu of developing an understanding of the wastes, their compositions, and their association(s) with other waste(s), precludes the potential identification waste generators that may have been potential responsible parties to the creation of this dump. It cannot again be allowed."

"Tax payers of the City and County of Denver should not solely be responsible for contamination attributable to others."

And:

"A proper Remedial Investigation of the OU2 municipal dump must include a full, meaningful characterization of the wastes in the dump, as well as a search for additional responsible parties that contributed to contamination at and migrating from the dump.
Excavating the non-GLOP-shielded dump wastes prior to proceeding with the new Remedial Investigation is not a legitimate path."

READ FULL REPORT

Mr Norris previous OU2 presentations:

Part I

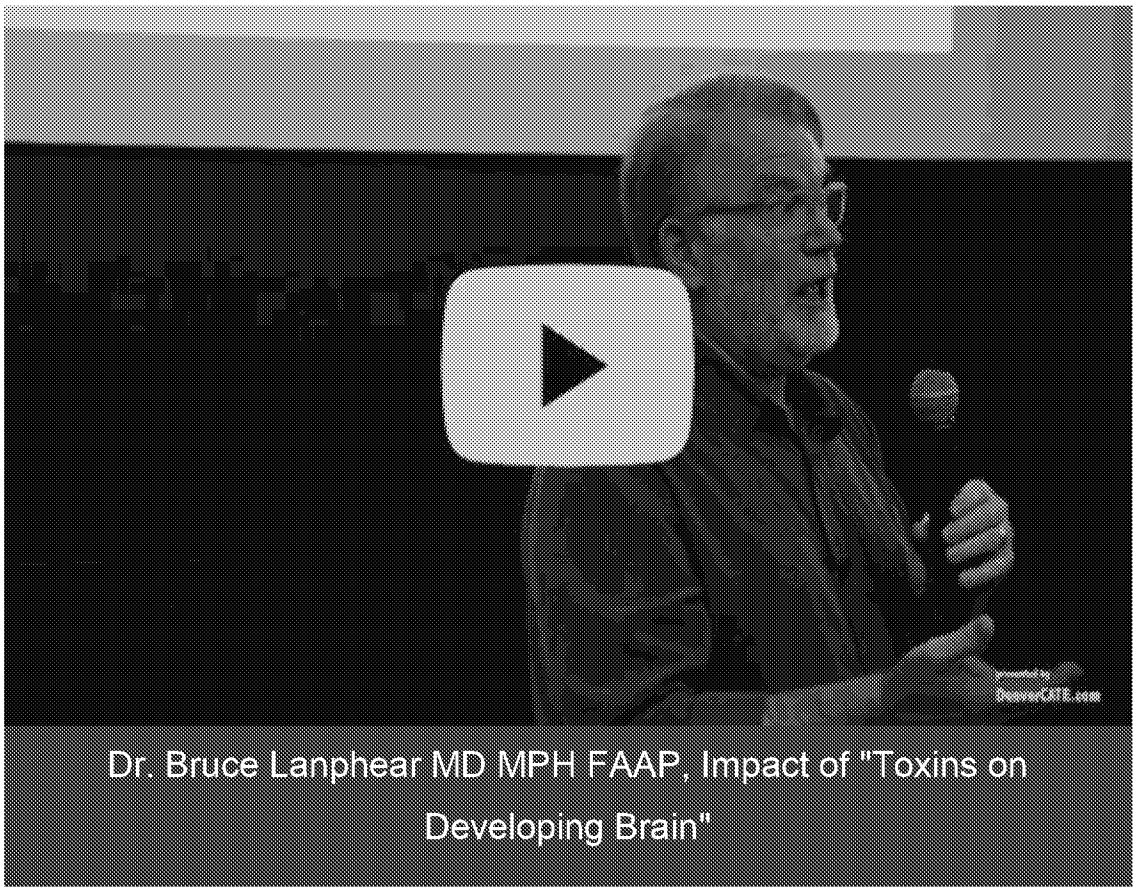
Part II

Mr Norris has offered, and the CAG has repeatedly requested, that as a qualified Technical Advisor to the CAG, he be invited to attend meetings with EPA and CDPHE and Denver that involve work at the Site. This would allow the CAG to better fulfill its mandate to advise the EPA and inform the community. Those requests have, unfortunately, but not surprisingly, been repeatedly rebuffed by the city and agencies.

Thanks to Mr. Norris', and others, persistent and carful research, the CAG has been kept abreast of work in the Site. Unfortunately, agency reluctance to cooperate with the CAG may mean that the residents and taxpayers of Denver will be the losers.

Mr Norris expects to make another presentation at the CAG's March meeting.

Dr. Bruce Lanphear MD MPH FAAP addresses groups in Denver.



EDITORIAL

WELCOME DR. LANPHEAR

The CAG , along with several other community groups including Inter Neighborhood Cooperation (INC),welcomed Dr. Lanphear, a pediatrician and break through researcher on the negative impact of even very low levels of toxins like lead, on people, especially fetuses and young

children, to Denver from his home in Vancouver BC.

LEAD = BRAIN DAMAGE & MORE

Lanphear reported that serious, irreversible brain damage and other health issues that last a life time, are the results of exposure to even very low levels of toxins like lead.

Lead is responsible for many cases of ADHD, autism, depression, loss of intelligence, aggressive and criminal behavior and 185,000 heart attacks in the USA every year. That is, it seems, just the beginning.

NO SCIENCE IN EPA LEVELS

He declared that the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "action level" of 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead in water in homes and schools had no scientific basis, and was not protective of human health.

The EPA apparently adopted the 15 ppb 'action level" after asking water treatment plants for suggestions the 1980s and it has never changed.

EPA, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), City of Denver, Denver Water

and Denver Public Schools are still promoting the action level of 15 ppb as acceptable in our homes and schools.

NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD

Lanphear reiterated that there is NO SAFE level of lead for humans and a more protective, short term goal, based on science should be no more than 5 ppb in drinking water and that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends no more than 1 ppb of lead in drinking water.

SOIL

Similarly there is no scientific evidence that 400 parts per million (ppm) of lead in soil where children play is protective of their health. Some cities and countries have mandated much lower levels. The EPA used 400 ppm as the "action level" to trigger a "clean up" of homes in the Vasquez Bl/l 70 Superfund Site.

DUST

Dust from contaminated dirt, especially in Superfund Sites, and lead paint are also a big concerns. Exposure to lead is disproportionately suffered by low income,

minority adults and children

BLOOD LEVELS

Dr. Lanphear and the AAP state that there is no safe level of lead in children's blood and that a blood level goal should be no more that 1 microgram of lead per deciliter of blood.

When EPA delisted OU1, it relied on an old, discredited belief that any level under 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood in children was acceptable for children living in the Site.

EPA documents of the day seem to acknowledge what the Romans knew: There is no known safe level of lead in humans.

PREMATURE DELISTING?

The CAG, Mr. Norris, EarthJustice and others, asked the EPA and CDPHE not to delist Operable Unit 1 from the National Priorities List. They stated that it was premature and they worried that the health of residents could still be in jeopardy.

RETESTING

The CAG requested that children in the Site be retested for lead levels in their blood. The CAG asked EPA to resample and retest the soil, as the EPA had never determined the source of the pollution. Early on, in the late 1990's, EPA struck upon an unproven theory that the contamination came from smoke stacks from the smelter. They came up with a remedy to remove just 12 inches of top soil from some yards.

SOURCE OF POLLUTION?

After careful study of EPA's own documents, Mr. Norris suggested that there is a strong possibility that much of the lead and arsenic contamination (and perhaps other toxins)found in OU1 came from infill and would be found far deeper that where EPA had tested.

CLEANED UP?

There are still some homes in OU1 that have not had any testing or clean up. Also, EPA never tested or cleaned up any road or commercial properties that are intertwined with residences in the Site. Denver and CDOT are now digging up many

of those sites for development and infrastructure including the expansion and lowering of Highway I-70. All of this with the blessings of CDPHE and the EPA.

POLITICS VS. HELATH

It seems, that as has happened in other parts of the country including Flint, MI, politics may have trumped (no pun intended) science and concern for residents, including innocent children especially those living in low income, minority neighborhoods. (*Great account of Flint's ordeal and official treachery: "What The Eyes Don't See" by Mona Hanna Attisha, a Flint pediatrician.*)

SAME OLD STORY

In thousands of documents received by the CAG in an EPA FOI requests, it appears that our concerns were shared by the precursor to the CAG, CEASE, a community group that fought for environmental justice for their neighborhood.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to Dr. Lamphear for sharing his time, experience and knowledge with us and opening our eyes to the science and reality of toxic poisons and the

power of prevention.

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You are receiving this email because you have an interest in the Vasquez Bl./I-70 Superfund Site.

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VB/I-70 Community Advisory Group

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Denver, Co 80207

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