

**CEAC and SSGZ Strongly Support the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm.  
CEAC and SSGZ Strongly Oppose the Minneapolis Plan for More Pollution.  
Result: Minneapolis Threatens DISBANDING Both Organizations.**

**Community Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC); Bylaws:**

Section 2. Duties and Membership

- A. CEAC shall work closely with the Sustainability Division to provide policy and program advice and comments to the City Council and City staff. CEAC may suggest environmental priorities for City policies, programs, and projects using criteria including but not limited to natural and built environmental impact, community impact, timeliness, environmental justice, and equity.

**Southside Green Zone; Goals; Passed May 14, 2017 by Mpls. City Council:**

- 1) Clean up soil and water contamination and redevelop brownfields.
- 2) Improve air quality, livability, and pollinator habitat through vegetation, clean energy, and energy efficiency.
- 3) Improve air and environmental quality in business and transport.
- 4) Increase "green" jobs and career opportunities.
- 5) Increase the availability of affordable and environmentally high quality housing.
- 6) Increase access to healthy affordable food by supporting local systems of growing, production, and distribution.
- 7) Advance environmental awareness and education in the community and schools.

**Minneapolis City Clerk**, Casey Joe Carl, in response to advice and comments supporting the Urban Farm project, threatened that Mayor Frey and the Minneapolis City Council could "... unappoint the members of these groups or even [to] disband those bodies altogether."<sup>1</sup> The bodies referred to are CEAC, the Community Environmental Advisory Commission and; SSGZ, the South Side Green Zone Advisory Committee.

**Both CEAC and SSGZ are in strong support of the East Phillips' Community plan** for saving the 230,000+ sq. ft. newly renovated Sears warehouse and repurposing the 7.6-Acre Roof Depot site into a Green Urban Farm providing local jobs and second chance opportunities, year-round Organic food, a World Café and coffee shop, affordable family housing, bike repair, one of the State's largest solar arrays & immediately available relocation space for many burned-out local businesses.

**Both CEAC and SSGZ are strongly opposed to the City plan** for more pollution and congestion in the already polluted East Phillips, Seward, Corcoran and down-wind neighborhoods. Their plan for the environmentally and economically challenged residential area is to move in another asphalt storage facility, 400+ more employee vehicles, an additional 400+ commercial trucks – many toxic diesel, and, a "Sand-Box" in which to teach heavy equipment operation and the untold hazard of releasing currently encapsulated arsenic into the air and water during the process of demolishing the perfectly good Sears warehouse.

**Both CEAC and SSGZ have been appointed to "advise" the Mayor and City Council.** In their attempt to do their job, both CEAC and SSGZ have produced documentation to support their conclusions. Now the City of Minneapolis, the "Champion" of Community Engagement and Environmental Justice has informed us that "... these specific bodies have no authority or right to speak, represent, or make statements or public pronouncements for or on behalf of the City of Minneapolis without the express prior authorization by the Mayor and City Council."<sup>2</sup>

**We anticipate that Minneapolis will soon disband both organizations or re-name CEAC to be the Community Environmental Acquiescence Commission and SSGZ to be the South Side Green Zone Capitulation Committee to better represent their requirements as interpreted by Clerk Carl. We cannot imagine anyone volunteering for either organization under such unethical requirements.**

Brad Pass

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On behalf of EPNI, East Phillips Neighbors, Downwind Sufferers, the 29 Signing  
CEAC Supporting Organizations and approximately 500 Supporting Petitioners

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<sup>1</sup> # 13, Mpls. City Clerk -Casey Joe Carl letter to Erin Niehoff distributed July 30, 2020 at 2:25 PM

<sup>2</sup> # 11, Mpls. City Clerk -Casey Joe Carl letter to Erin Niehoff distributed July 30, 2020 at 2:25 PM