

Sponsors: Councilwoman Myrna Maldonado
Councilman Robert Garcia
Councilman Emiliano Perez

RESOLUTION NO. 17-0008

A RESOLUTION ARTICULATING THE "SENSE OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL" OF THE CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
REGARDING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED AIR QUALITY
PERMIT APPLICATION BY INDIANA HARBOR COKE COMPANY

WHEREAS, The City of East Chicago was incorporated to provide certain public services to the residents of this community, all of whom are also residents of this state, and Nation, for whom their elected public servants commit their judgment and industry to promote the general welfare and common public good; and

WHEREAS, The East Chicago City Council, as the fiscal and legislative body of the City of East Chicago, from time to time, encounters issues of public import and moment which invite an expression from the elected representatives as part of the public discourse on the matter; and

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 31 of the Indiana Constitution provides that no law shall restrain any of the inhabitants of the State from assembling together in a peaceable manner, to consult for their common good, nor from instructing their representatives, nor from applying to the General Assembly for redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, The First Amendment of the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, Governments are formed to protect the health and well-being of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Inhabiting a place where there is clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and clean land on which to reside has been since 1970 held to be an essential governmental function; and

WHEREAS, For the City of East Chicago attention and concern for environmental matters are of current concern, especially with Indiana Harbor Coke Company's current request for relief of air quality restriction at its coke plant located on Arcelor Mittal grounds in East Chicago, and

WHEREAS, As more corporations establish business presences in several nations, CEOs and board members of these multinational corporations often do not reside in the areas in which they conduct trade, earn profits and too often leave polluted air; and

WHEREAS, It is our belief that market forces alone are insufficient to encourage these corporations to engage in environmentally sustainable practices, this would reduce undesirable ecological impacts while maintaining profitability; and

WHEREAS, there is currently an application for a proposed air permit that will, in all likely hood, cause the release of toxic air born materials that are harmful to the environment and human life, and

WHEREAS, The Indian Department of Environmental Management permitted a comment period on this air qualify application by Indian Harbor Coke Company and the Common Council of the City of East Chicago wishes to add its voice against the granting of any air qualify permit that does not include an aggressive schedule of compliance and that will permit or allow continued expulsion of toxic substances into the air within East Chicago, and

WHEREAS The City of East Chicago by and through its elected officers wishes to offer a distinct, public expression on the public import of this matter,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana that it is the sense of the City Council of East Chicago is as follows:

Section 1. That it is the sense of the City Council of the City of East Chicago that it is of the highest public importance and good that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management deny any request of Indiana Harbor Coke Company for a modification of its current air quality restrictions or limitations without attaching a schedule of compliance with clear milestones and conditions while establishing more stringent limits on toxic releases. .

Section 2. That it is the further sense of the City Council of the City of East Chicago that it is of the highest public importance and good that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management renew its efforts to require complete and consistent compliance with existing air quality standards.

Section 3. That the Indiana Department of Environmental Management must be eternally vigilant of private for profit corporations continued plan to destroy the air and water quality in the name of profit. This vigilance is needed in order to preserve the ecological quality of life in our community, our region and our nation;

Section 4. That the Clerk be hereby further instructed to transmit and forward this resolution to the President of United States of America, Indiana's United States Senators and the Representative in the United States House of Representatives from Indiana's First Congressional District, the Governor of Indiana, the Indiana State Senator from District Two, the Indiana State Representative from District Two, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and such persons as may be deemed to have an interest in this matter and to encourage those persons to evidence their strong desire to see the objects and purposes of this "Sense of the Council Resolution " achieved.

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this ____ Day of _____, 2017 by the Common Council of the City of East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana.

Common Council of East Chicago

President, Lenny Franciski

Myrna Maldonado, 1st District

Brenda J. Walker, 3d District

Christine Vasquez, 4th District

Robert Garcia, 5th District

Gilda Orange, 6th District

Emiliano Perez, At Large

Richard Medina, At Large

Kenny Monroe, At Large

Attest:

Adrian A. Santos, City Clerk

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of East Chicago this ____ day _____, 2017 at
_____AM/PM.

Adrian A. Santos, City Clerk

Approved by me this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Mayor, Anthony Copeland