

WHO IS GENERAL IRON AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED

A notorious and corrupt polluter, General Iron shreds scrap metal currently along the North Branch of the Chicago River. Neighbors have battled the company for years. The list of grievances is long: spewing toxic auto fluff (similar to insulation), generating nauseous odors, creating loud noises and endangering neighbors. Simply put: It's not a good neighbor.

Beyond polluting air and water, the company has not operated safely. OHSA has found numerous violations, fires have broken out and multiple explosions have occurred - the most recent in May 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local, state and federal regulators have cited it for breaking environmental rules. The U.S. EPA forced the company into a consent order in 2019

The company has gotten everything it's ever needed from the City of Chicago thanks to using disgraced lobbyists like Victor Reyes to buy off politicians, a favorite Chicago past time.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM HAPPENING IN REAL TIME

The two explosions in May weren't enough to do the company in. Mayor Lightfoot and her administration have allowed the polluter to restart operations on the North side. Despite a broad, deep and diverse coalition, the Mayor and her Health Department have also provided a clear path for General Iron to move its operations to the 10th Ward on Chicago's Southeast side, a heavily minority and poor community that the Illinois EPA has designated an area of environmental justice. Environmental racism is underway in real time in Chicago.

WHO IS INVOLVED AGAINST GENERAL IRON

Elected Officials

- U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin & Tammy Duckworth
- U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush
- Illinois Sens. Robert Peters and Elgie Sims Jr. and Reps. Kambium Buckner, Marcus Evans Jr., Nicholas Smith and Curtis Tarver.
- Alds. Brian Hopkins, Daniel La Spata

Environmental & Grassroots

- National Resources Defense Council
- Clean the North Branch
- Coalition to Stop Petcoke
- Neighbors for Environmental Justice
- Southeast Environmental Task Force
- Sunrise Movement
- Southeast Youth Alliance
- Poor People's Campaign

WHAT IS NEEDED

Despite the move to the Southeast side from the North side being textbook environmental racism, the mayor has not even tried to stop General Iron.