

Resolution for the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee

Resolution for Clean Air

WHEREAS the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC) acknowledges the critical importance of clean air for the health and well-being of all residents in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, air pollution poses significant health risks, particularly to vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions; and

WHEREAS the Jefferson-Orleans-Irish Channel Neighbors for Clean Air (JOIN for Clean Air) released a comprehensive report on June 28, 2021, detailing the toxic emissions from the BWC Harvey facility, a 48-acre bulk petrochemical storage and transfer facility; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department for Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has identified BWC Harvey as the primary source of toxic fumes affecting the Irish Channel and surrounding neighborhoods, impacting an estimated 75,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, since August 2018, the LDEQ has received at least 850 toxic odor complaints related to BWC Harvey, detailing health impacts such as headaches, dizziness, and respiratory issues; and

WHEREAS, the BWC Harvey facility has been accused of "sham permitting" and emitting over six times the allowable limit for an insignificant activity, posing a serious public health hazard; and

WHEREAS, despite public opposition and documented health complaints, the LDEQ has continued to permit expansions and allow the facility to operate without adequate oversight or effective emission controls; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans City Council, on the 1st of July 2014, discussed and passed Resolution R-21-239, which urges state and federal oversight to address the ongoing pollution and health risks posed by BWC Harvey.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC) formally supports the City Council's Resolution R-21-239 and joins the call for immediate action from the Louisiana Governor's Office and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to exercise their oversight authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OPDEC urges the Louisiana Department for Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to suspend BWC Harvey's air permit until the facility can

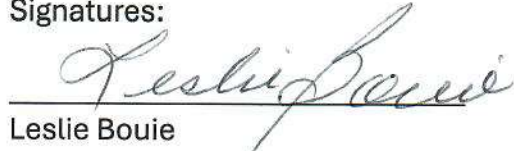
demonstrate compliance with all safety and environmental regulations, including proper air permitting and effective emission control measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OPDEC calls for the establishment of a transparent and inclusive permit review process that involves public input and regular monitoring of toxic emissions to protect the health of all New Orleans residents; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be disseminated to the Louisiana Governor's Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Louisiana Department for Environmental Quality, and all relevant stakeholders to ensure immediate and effective action is taken to safeguard public health and the environment.

Adopted on: September 26, 2024

Signatures:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leslie Bouie", written over a horizontal line.

Leslie Bouie

Chairperson, Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee

Sources:

1. "Air Pollution, Refinery, Louisiana" by cesarharada.com is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
2. JOIN for Clean Air report on toxic emissions from BWC Harvey
3. Louisiana Department for Environmental Quality (LDEQ) data and reports
4. New Orleans City Council Resolution R-21-239