

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
U.S. COAST GUARD

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COAST GUARD AMBASSADOR BRIDGE
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

+ + + + +

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

+ + + + +

The Meeting before the U.S. Coast Guard, was held at the Greater Apostolic Faith Temple, 4735 W. Fort Street, Detroit, Michigan on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Allen Garneau, presiding.

U.S. COAST GUARD:

Brian Dunn, Chief, Office of Bridge Programs,
US Coast Guard

Shelly Sugarman, Chief, Bridge Permits Division,
US Coast Guard

Allen Garneau, Bridge Permitting Staff,
US Coast Guard

Zachary Schulman, Bridge Permitting Staff,
US Coast Guard

Timothy W. Pavilonis, Legal Advisor, Maritime
Transportation Systems Directorate
US Coast Guard

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:00 p.m.

MR. GARNEAU: Good evening, everybody.

Thank you all for coming out. On behalf of the United States Coast Guard I would like to welcome you all to this public meeting to receive comments on the proposed Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project. My name is Allen Garneau and I'm a member of the Bridge Permitting Staff at Coast Guard Headquarters. In a few minutes we will begin with a short presentation and plan to take comments until about 7 p.m., at which time we'll take a ten-minute break.

At the conclusion of the break we'll continue with the comments. Restrooms are located in the back of the foyer on both sides. Exits as you came in are also back in the foyer. At this time do we have anybody that needs interpretation into Spanish? Okay. We do have a Spanish interpreter on site so if we need that, nobody seems to at this moment, we'll have that available.

1 We ask that you please silence your
2 cell phones and any other electronic devices and
3 try to keep the noise level to a minimum while
4 there's a speaker. This will ensure we
5 accurately record everyone's comments. If you
6 haven't already done so, we request that for the
7 record you sign in at the registration desk and
8 fill out the separate speaker card if you wish to
9 provide oral comments tonight. This is the
10 speaker request form. If you haven't filled one
11 of these out yet and you wish to speak this
12 evening please go fill that out.

13 Please return the completed cards to
14 the registration desk. You will receive a
15 speaker number when you submit the card. To keep
16 the meeting running efficiently, speakers will be
17 called by name and number in the order the cards
18 are received. To maximize the opportunity for
19 all members of the public to express their views
20 we ask that speakers keep their comments to a
21 maximum of three minutes and that views of
22 committees or organizations should be presented

1 by a single spokesperson.

2 We will not address or respond to
3 individual questions during this meeting. All
4 comments will be reviewed and addressed as part
5 of the overall evaluation of the project. There
6 are also comment forms available at the
7 registration desk for you to use if you prefer to
8 provide written comments. This is the form that
9 was out there as well. All oral and written
10 comments will be equally considered by the Coast
11 Guard and will be included in the Coast Guard
12 record for this project.

13 As you will notice, this meeting is
14 being recorded and the transcript of the meeting
15 will become part of the Coast Guard record. After
16 the presentation I'll provide some additional
17 ground rules for the public part of this meeting.
18 Now I'd like to introduce Mr. Brian Dunn, Chief
19 Office of Bridge Programs at Coast Guard
20 Headquarters in Washington D.C.

21 MR. DUNN: Thank you, Allen. Good
22 evening, everybody. Thank you for your

1 attendance this evening to discuss this very
2 important project. I'd also like to extend a
3 thank you to Representative Stephanie Chang who
4 notified us of the interest in having this public
5 meeting and thank you for your interest in the
6 project.

7 With me this evening are Shelly
8 Sugarman, Chief Bridge Permits Division, Allen
9 Garneau and Zachary Schulman from the Bridge
10 Permitting Staff and Tim Pavilonis who is the
11 Legal Advisor for the Maritime Transportation
12 Systems Directorate. Also assisting this evening
13 are several members of the Coast Guard Sector
14 Detroit. We appreciate their assistance with
15 getting people registered this evening. I would
16 also like to thank Bishop Gates and the Greater
17 Apostolic Temple for their assistance in holding
18 this public meeting.

19 We're conducting this public meeting
20 which was announced by public notice on February
21 2nd and is authorized by Section 115.60 of Title
22 33 Code of Federal Regulations to aid in our

1 evaluation of a bridge permit application for the
2 Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project. This
3 project proposes to construct a six lane cable
4 stayed bridge over the Detroit River just west of
5 the existing Ambassador Bridge between Detroit,
6 Wayne County, Michigan, United States and
7 Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

8 The applicant and owner of the
9 existing Ambassador Bridge of The Detroit
10 International Bridge Company has recently entered
11 into an agreement with the City of Detroit for
12 the purpose of allowing DIBC to use portions of
13 the Riverside Park necessary to construct a
14 project as originally proposed and evaluated in
15 the 2009 Coast Guard final environmental
16 assessment.

17 The Coast Guard recently received
18 comments from the Michigan Department of Natural
19 Resources and the U.S. National Park Service
20 regarding their respective legal authorities with
21 regard to any change in the use of Riverside
22 Park. These comments are also included in the

1 Coast Guard's records for this project, and no
2 decision by the Coast Guard can affect the legal
3 authority of these agencies with regard to
4 Riverside Park.

5 Under Federal Law the proposed bridge
6 is a structure over navigable waters to the
7 United States, and as such requires a Coast Guard
8 Bridge Permit. In accordance with the National
9 Environmental Policy Act, the Coast Guard as the
10 lead Federal Agency for this project, conducted a
11 reevaluation of the environmental assessment and
12 drafted a finding of no significant impact. These
13 documents have been available for public review
14 and comment since January 8, 2016.

15 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to
16 obtain your comments on the environmental impacts
17 of the proposed bridge project. We ask that you
18 provide as much detail as possible for us to have
19 a clear understanding of the reasons for support
20 of or opposition to the bridge. As details to
21 the project, on July 13, 2006 Detroit
22 International Bridge Company submitted an

1 application to the U.S. Coast Guard for a bridge
2 permit to construct a new bridge adjacent to the
3 existing Ambassador Bridge due to the age of the
4 existing structure and the demands for modern
5 traffic and security. The new bridge proposal is
6 referred to as the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement
7 Project.

8 The DIBC plans to construct the new
9 bridge in coordination with the commonly owned
10 Canadian counterpart, the Canadian Transit
11 Company, an Ontario Corporation. Both the DIBC
12 and CTC are owned by Centra Incorporated, a
13 Michigan corporation. The proposed bridge will
14 run roughly parallel to the existing Ambassador
15 Bridge. The width of this proposed bridge is set
16 to allow transition directly into the connection
17 points in both the United States and Canadian
18 Plazas and provide the necessary safety shoulders
19 that are not present on the existing bridge.

20 The proposed bridge will provide six
21 lanes of travel; three in each direction. One
22 lane in each direction will be dedicated to low

1 risk commercial traffic participating in the free
2 and secure trade program operated by Customs
3 Authorities for the United States and Canada. The
4 other lanes will be open to general automobile
5 and commercial traffic. Although the proposed
6 new bridge is immediately adjacent to the
7 existing Ambassador Bridge, it is not intended to
8 expand the current capacity of the Ambassador
9 Bridge. Rather, the new bridge will more
10 efficiently and safely service the traffic now
11 being handled at the existing Ambassador Bridge.

12 Once the proposed bridge is
13 operational, the existing Ambassador Bridge will
14 be taken out of service, rehabilitated,
15 maintained and used for redundancy, emergency
16 traffic and approved public events. We provided
17 at the front a handout that provides a summary of
18 the project and if you didn't get one that's
19 available at front registration desk.

20 On February 27, 2009 the Coast Guard
21 published a final Environmental Assessment in a
22 draft finding of no significant impact for public

1 comments. Written public comments were accepted
2 during a comment period from February 27, through
3 April 30, 2009. Additionally, a public meeting
4 like this one was held on March 17, 2009. The
5 majority of the public comments received related
6 to potential traffic impacts on neighborhood
7 streets, property ownership required for the
8 bridge, air quality impacts, closure of the
9 existing bridge and the relationship of this
10 bridge to the Ambassador Bridge Gateway Project.
11 During the 2009 comment period certain Michigan
12 litigation and actions by the City of Detroit
13 lead the Coast Guard to conclude that DIBC would
14 not obtain necessary property rights required to
15 construct the bridge.

16 On June 15, 2009 the Coast Guard
17 stopped all work on DIBC's Bridge permit
18 application, which lead to litigation between
19 DIBC and the Coast Guard. During the course of
20 that litigation the Court required the Coast
21 Guard to continue work on certain environmental
22 analysis to expedite permit processing in the

1 event DIBC could reach a property agreement with
2 the City of Detroit.

3 On July 11, 2012 DIBC provided the
4 Coast Guard with revised air quality analysis as
5 an update to the air quality analysis included in
6 the 2009 final EA. This air quality analysis
7 reflected the MDOT approved final design for the
8 Ambassador Bridge Gateway Project, a separate but
9 related transportation project that enhanced
10 freeway connections between Mexicantown and the
11 Ambassador Bridge and removed truck traffic from
12 Fort Street. The Coast Guard sent the air
13 quality analysis to the United States
14 Environmental Protection Agency for review and
15 comment. On August 23, 2012 the Environmental
16 Protection Agency wrote to the Coast Guard
17 stating that their outstanding regulatory issues
18 with the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project
19 had been resolved based on the 2012 updated air
20 quality analysis. This correspondence remains
21 available for public review and is included in
22 the Coast Guard record for this project.

1 On July 28, 2015 the Detroit City
2 Council approved an agreement that purports to
3 allow for the transfer of three acres of the
4 eastern portion of Riverside Park to the Bridge
5 Company in exchange for 4.8 acres of Riverfront
6 land to the west. Because Riverside Park was
7 established with Federal and State grant money,
8 any transfer and conversion of land necessary for
9 the new bridge must still be approved by the
10 Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the
11 U.S. National Park Service in accordance with the
12 Land and Water Conservation Fund conversion
13 requirements before construction of the new
14 bridge may commence.

15 The Coast Guard finds that agreement
16 provides DIBC with sufficient legal interest in
17 the subject property to move forward with the
18 bridge permit process. As a result of the
19 property agreement, the bridge design has
20 reverted to the original design described in the
21 2009 final EA. The Coast Guard's reevaluation of
22 the environmental assessment was prepared to

1 update that information provided in the 2009
2 final EA. The air quality analysis performed for
3 this project was derived from the same projected
4 overall traffic counts, including truck traffic,
5 used in the Gateway Project and the Detroit River
6 International Crossing now named the Gordie Howe
7 Bridge Project. Thus the traffic volumes that
8 were used in the air quality analysis for the
9 project exceed those obtained from the Detroit
10 River International Crossing Level 3 Report. This
11 analysis considered that all traffic would cross
12 the Ambassador Bridge even though, once
13 constructed, the Gordie Howe Bridge will carry
14 some portion of the traffic assumed to be carried
15 by the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project
16 through the year 2030.

17 The dispersion modeling analysis
18 demonstrates the maximum predicted impacts
19 combined with the current background
20 concentrations are less than national ambient air
21 quality standards, and that the maximum predicted
22 concentrations of air toxics are less than

1 Michigan Department of Environmental quality
2 health based screening levels.

3 The Coast Guard contacted the U.S.
4 Environmental Protection Agency on September 29,
5 2015 to determine which, if any, parts of the
6 2012 Air Quality Analysis needed to be updated.
7 In response, the EPA made a number of project
8 related recommendations for DIBC before
9 construction could commence but did not require
10 additional air quality analysis as part of this
11 reevaluation.

12 The project was shown to be well below
13 the minimum thresholds using the worst case
14 traffic scenarios in the 2007, 2009 and 2012
15 studies. There are no changes to the project
16 scope and footprint since the 2012 study that
17 included the combined Gateway and Ambassador
18 Bridge Enhancement Project. The actual 2014
19 traffic volumes are only about 56 percent of
20 those projected and used in the air quality
21 studies, and the vehicle fleet is reported to
22 produce 90 percent fewer emissions than those

1 utilized in the 2007 study. This conclusion is
2 consistent with the approved reevaluation for the
3 Gordie Howe Bridge Project.

4 Now, I would like to provide a few
5 final comments from the public meeting and bridge
6 application process. This meeting is not an
7 adversarial proceeding or a two-day dialogue;
8 rather, it is one in which all interested parties
9 have an opportunity to present a full and frank
10 statement to the Coast Guard of their views
11 regarding the environmental impacts of the
12 proposed project.

13 Statements will not be given under
14 oath and cross-examination of speakers will not
15 be permitted. However, I may ask for
16 clarification or amplification of statements
17 offered. In order to allow for as many people as
18 possible to provide comments, I will not be able
19 to answer individual questions or respond to
20 comments offered tonight. Comments will be
21 reviewed and addressed as part of the overall
22 evaluation of the project. The official comment

1 period for this project will remain open until
2 February 8, 2016--February 28, 2016.

3 The public notice provided details on
4 how to submit comments to the official record.
5 Again, any written comments received tonight
6 along with the transcript of all oral comments
7 will be added to the Coast Guard record for this
8 project. Please note that the Coast Guard has
9 not yet made a final decision on this proposed
10 bridge project, but will consider all information
11 in the record at the conclusion of the public
12 comment period.

13 The U.S. Coast Guard, pursuant to the
14 Bridge Act of 1906 will ultimately make a
15 decision on bridge permit application based on
16 the merits of the case. The Coast Guard
17 anticipates making a permanent decision in March.
18 Finally, I would like to assure each of you your
19 comments, whether submitted orally or in writing,
20 will be reviewed and considered in our
21 evaluation. Thank you all again for attending
22 this evening. I will now ask Allen to provide

1 the ground rules for tonight's public meeting.

2 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you. I'll again
3 start by asking do we have any need for Spanish
4 interpretation at this time? I will be calling
5 the names and the associated numbers of the
6 persons registered to speak at this meeting. You
7 can still register to speak at any time during
8 the meeting by filling out a Speaker Request Card
9 and delivering it to the registration desk. I'll
10 be calling you in the order in which you
11 registered. To ensure that everyone has an
12 opportunity to be heard, remarks should be kept
13 to three minutes. A thirty second warning to
14 make closing remarks will be indicated.

15 I will call two names. The first will
16 be the active speaker and the second will be the
17 next speaker on deck. Please move to the vacant
18 microphone and be prepared to start your remarks
19 while you listen to the current speaker. When it
20 is your turn to speak, please clearly state your
21 name for the record and your organization
22 affiliation if you have one. Your statement will

1 be recorded by our stenographer.

2 If you have a written copy of your
3 statement that you would like to leave with us
4 please hand it to the stenographer. In addition
5 to providing you with an opportunity to submit
6 oral comments this evening, we have provided you
7 with comment sheets at the front desk which you
8 may leave with us tonight. Please leave your
9 comments with either the stenographer or at the
10 registration desk. You can also submit your
11 comments any time before the end of the commented
12 period on February 28th. The comment sheets have
13 information at the bottom on how to submit them.
14 Now I will call the first two speakers. Speaker
15 number one will be Ms. Stephanie Chang and
16 speaker number two on deck will be Nicole
17 Jackson.

18 MS. CHANG: Good afternoon. My name
19 is Stephanie Chang and I am the State
20 Representative for House District 6. Thank you
21 to the Coast Guard for holding this public
22 hearing and especially Allen who has been really

1 responsive to me and my office. I have the
2 amazing honor of serving House District 6, which
3 includes part of Southwest Detroit and we have
4 some of the worst air pollution in the entire
5 State.

6 Today I want to urge the Coast Guard
7 to not move forward on the proposed project for a
8 second private span unless two conditions are
9 met. One, the bridge company has written
10 documentation regarding approval by the National
11 Park Service and Michigan DNR to use Riverside
12 Park land for non-recreation purposes; and two, a
13 full environmental impact study is conducted and
14 results in a finding of no significant impact.

15 I have already submitted my written
16 comments so I will keep my remarks short and
17 focus on three points. First, it simply does not
18 make sense to approve a permit to build a major
19 international bridge when the bridge company does
20 not yet have approval to use the land that it
21 needs to build the second private bridge.
22 Millions of public dollars have gone into

1 Riverside Park and it must be used for public
2 outdoor recreation unless a land conversion is
3 approved. DNR stated in its comments that it is,
4 quote, not likely to approve the conversion of
5 dedicated parkland in exchange for a site that
6 contains a warehousing or parking lot because the
7 warehouse doesn't offer equivalent recreational
8 value.

9 Second, the environmental data has too
10 many flaws; whether it's a truck forecast from
11 2005 or meteorological data from 2001, the data
12 is simply too old. The EPA previously
13 recommended that the data be updated, but
14 unfortunately this hasn't taken place.
15 Furthermore, the software used for air quality
16 impact analysis is not the current EPA
17 recommended software and there was no hot spot
18 analysis.

19 The environmental assessment also made
20 the point that there are more trucks using new
21 engines that pollute less; however that is not
22 national data. Folks in Southwest Detroit is

1 breathing this air and have suffered from asthma
2 and other respiratory conditions. They are the
3 ones who know that the 13 thousand trucks going
4 over this bridge every day are emitting diesel
5 exhaust. So we need more data so we know exactly
6 what the impact would be on our air quality.

7 My last point is that the soil at
8 Riverside Park is contaminated and requires
9 extensive remediation. I'm not just guessing.
10 Constructing the second span would mean that this
11 soil will be disturbed releasing some of these
12 toxic substances into the air. In an e-mail I
13 received from DEQ in January said that, quote,
14 both the U.S., EPA and DEQ believe environmental
15 contamination is present at multiple points along
16 the riverfront portion of the Riverside Park
17 site.

18 So let me recap. The public health
19 risk is too great. The data is flawed and based
20 on false assumptions. The bridge company can't
21 use the land and that land is actually
22 contaminated. Why would it make any sense to

1 approve this permit now? The answer is simply
2 that it doesn't. And so I again urge you to delay
3 decision until any approval of the land
4 conversion and until a full environmental impact
5 study is completed. Thank you so much for your
6 consideration.

7 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Chang.
8 Next we have Speaker Nicole Jackson who will be
9 followed by speaker Rashida Tlaib.

10 MS. JACKSON: Thank you. First I'd
11 like to say thank you to the Coast Guard. Thank
12 you for your leadership; the work that you do.
13 As a matter of fact, I saw Guardian today and it
14 made me appreciate you for the work that you do.
15 Thank you for taking this special consideration
16 to hear from us in the community. My name is
17 Nicole Jackson, and I support the Ambassador
18 Bridge Enhancement Project.

19 My understanding is that you have the
20 data that you need to make your approval and I
21 strongly urge you to move forward and as swiftly
22 as possible with your approval. It is clear the

1 economic benefit to the community that the bridge
2 will bring. We need that. We need the jobs. We
3 need the tax base that construction of the bridge
4 will bring. We need a world class park that
5 other major cities have under their bridge. We
6 need that.

7 I appreciate your decisiveness despite
8 the distraction of opposers of the bridge and the
9 misinformation that is so passionately presented.
10 I trust you and your leadership and your
11 scientists that have made the determination thus
12 far. I trust our city leadership who has issued
13 approval thus far. Please, and I urge you, do
14 not do anything to slow or impede this process.
15 Thank you for your leadership.

16 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Jackson.
17 Now Rashida Tlaib will be followed by Linda
18 Estes.

19 MS. TLAIB: Thank you so much. I want
20 to welcome you all to Southwest Detroit. We are
21 home to a very diverse community, but we are home
22 to one of the highest asthma rates in the City as

1 well as one of the worst air qualities in the
2 State. So as you go through here you see all
3 kinds of the backing up of the trucks; all that.
4 I don't know if that was intentional. I don't
5 know if the toll workers are here or what's going
6 on there. One of the things that really need to
7 be emphasized here is the segmentation.

8 If you look on-line, just simply
9 Google or go onto the actual Federal website for
10 the lobbying report that say that they want to
11 close Fort Street and expand a plaza. If they
12 have that intention now this needs to be part of
13 the U.S. Coast Guard's application. You can't--
14 segmentation was in the other application and
15 then you had it in your base letter. That can't
16 happen because that failed the NEBA tests, right?

17 So if you want to hold down Fort
18 Street and expand your plaza, because they have
19 told me that themselves, we own the property on
20 the other side. Well then you have to make it
21 part of the application because the shortcuts
22 have to stop. The air quality impacts have to

1 stop. If you're going to expand it has to be
2 part of this application. You can't shortcut so
3 you don't have to do an environmental impact
4 statement, which is what we deserve.

5 The other thing is don't disregard
6 this whole Riverside Park. They can have press
7 conferences. They do it a lot. Trust me; it
8 depends on who the mayor is and who is in
9 council. But one important thing is they don't
10 have the legal authority to transfer it. It's
11 not only that Riverside Park before they sent
12 oral agreement from the mayor and then they own
13 it. I don't care how many little agreements they
14 have. They do not own it until the Federal
15 Government and the State say they own it. Plus
16 we deserve a recreational park.

17 We're going to fight that both with
18 the State and the Federal Government not to
19 transfer that. We do not deserve a little
20 contaminated park with some warehouse on it. We
21 deserve better than that in Southwest Detroit.
22 We're tired of being stomped on by this company

1 over and over again.

2 EPA is inconsistent. They sent a
3 letter in 2009 saying they want to reopen the
4 facts. Well, now they want to look back and
5 forth. I'm a little bit confused. What we are
6 confused on is that the EPA said hey modeling the
7 process needs to be moved to 2010, right? Why are
8 they using some old modeling process to look at
9 our air quality? That's not fair. And we need to
10 have--require them to do the most updated
11 processing to look at the air quality. It's
12 critical. We are not in compliance with the SO2
13 in Wayne County. We're tired of it. We're tired
14 of this, oh, they got the application and it
15 sounds so great; trust me.

16 Yeah, we have issues of trust with the
17 company, sure. But the facts don't lie. They're
18 using the wrong data. They're saying that
19 they're not going to expand or the project is as
20 is in the application. We all know from their
21 lobby report they plan to report it that they
22 plan on a much larger project and they're trying

1 to avoid the EPA. And thank you so much for
2 being here and please deny this application.

3 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Tlaib.

4 The next speaker will be Ms. Linda Estes and that
5 will be followed by Ms. Beverly Ellington.

6 MS. ESTES: Good afternoon. My name
7 is Linda Estes. I am an educator of pre-school
8 and elementary school students for over 20 years.
9 First, I would like to say thank you to the Coast
10 Guard for coming to listen to us, what we have to
11 say about the situation.

12 I am for the second span of the
13 Ambassador Bridge. Let's not draw this out any
14 longer. You are the Coast Guard. You've already
15 done three analysis and found no negative impact.
16 What more do we need? We don't need a more
17 extensive study on it. Let's do it. We trust
18 your judgement. You know what you're doing. You
19 are the experts, so please move forward with it.
20 We are ready to go forward. The Riverside Park
21 we know that these two go hand in hand, and let's
22 move forward with this project for the City of

1 Detroit. Thank you.

2 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Estes.
3 The next speaker will be Ms. Beverly Ellington
4 who will be followed by Betsy Isaac.

5 MS. ELLINGTON: Good afternoon. My
6 name is Beverly Ellington. I'm vice president
7 over at Park View Counsel. We just simply want a
8 park and we want a state of the art bridge and
9 everything. We think that we're going along with
10 the City Council when they had all these reviews
11 and everything; gone over all this stuff. So we
12 thought you were ready. So we're going to our
13 actions are that if you're ready, we're ready.
14 Our children need a good park. The City needs,
15 you know, a good bridge and that's all that
16 matters. We need this for jobs and everything.
17 So thank you.

18 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms.
19 Ellington. Ms. Betsy Isaac will be our next
20 speaker and will be followed by Ms. Love Rushton.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. ISAAC: I'm in favor of the

1 bridge. Now, anybody--I live to be what 78, I
2 know by now anyone knows we do need that bridge
3 extension. Even if it's just to help the other
4 bridge, because they--I'm so glad. I'd like to
5 thank the Coast Guard for making me feel
6 comfortable knowing that it's okay. And the park
7 that they're helping us, that they're going to
8 help us build, I'm in favor of it, because years
9 ago I used to go to the park and its been closed
10 so long. It was nothing like they plan on doing
11 for us. We need the bridge. That's just it.
12 And we need the park. So what's the delay? Don't
13 let nobody stop this from happening. And I thank
14 you, Coast Guard. Stay with us. Help us.

15 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Isaac.

16 The next speaker will be Ms. Love Rushton who
17 will be followed by Mr. Michael Spraggins.

18 MS. RUSHTON: My name is Love Rushton
19 and I would like to thank the Coast Guard and the
20 other people that are in support of the bridge.
21 After paying close attention in the last year and
22 a half of everything that was going on, I do see

1 that you have--again, I would just like to say
2 thank you and I do support the move and for the
3 expansion of the bridge. Thank you.

4 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Rushton.
5 Our next speaker will be Mr. Michael Spraggins
6 who will be followed by Ms. Maria Rodriguez.

7 MR. SPRAGGINS: My name is Michael
8 Spraggins. I've been a resident of Detroit since
9 '68. I'm 51. I support the bridge because it's
10 time for something new. The other bridge is 90
11 years old. We need a new bridge. We have people
12 in the background talking about the park. The
13 park is a separate issue. We're here about the
14 bridge. The bridge need to be built. We need
15 employment for the bridge. We need those who
16 have environmental studies going on for seven
17 years running to realize that we don't need
18 anymore studies. We need the bridge. Thank you
19 for your support, Coast Guard. Thank you for the
20 studies that you've taken up for this far and
21 this long.

22 Now that we know who the facts are

1 coming from, because I was at the City Council
2 meeting a couple days ago and was told by a City
3 Council member that you guys hadn't even finished
4 the study for the air quality. So that was
5 verification to equivocate, which means to not do
6 what you're saying you're going to do in the
7 first place. If you want to lie don't come to
8 the meeting where the truth is being told. They
9 were lying to us at the City Council meeting
10 saying the Coast Guard hadn't even completed the
11 study for air quality control.

12 What I just read in your fact sheet
13 must be the facts or we wouldn't be here in the
14 public lying to the public again. Somebody
15 lying. I don't think it's the Coast Guard
16 because you don't have any reason to. I won't
17 mention her name but Ms. Lopez you lied to me.
18 You said the study wasn't done. So people want
19 to say it's about this or that but nobody sits
20 down and wants to build something without
21 counting the costs. You count the cost. You've
22 done your quality control evaluations. The

1 people that you asked if we need more evaluation
2 said you don't so let's get this going. Let's
3 build this bridge. Let's make it happen.

4 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr.
5 Spraggins. Our next speaker will be Ms. Maria
6 Rodriguez who will be followed by Ms. Patrice
7 Hill.

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon,
9 everyone. My name is Maria Rodruiguez and I was
10 born and raised here in Detroit and spent most of
11 my entire adult life promoting and supporting our
12 community here in Southwest Detroit. I was a
13 former resident of Mexicantown Community
14 Development Corporation. We built the welcome
15 center next to the--very close to the Ambassador
16 Bridge. And we had quite a few promises that
17 were broken, information that was misinformation.
18 I am standing on sacred ground here and I am here
19 to say that we have to be very cautious working
20 with the Detroit International Bridge Company.

21 I have a laundry list, which I'll be
22 happy to share with all of you. I can print it

1 out and e-mail it, of all the promises that were
2 broken; not only with MCDC, Mexicantown Community
3 Development Corporation, but also with our
4 community. So I'll be happy to share that. Be
5 very cautious and I'm here on my own accord. I
6 was not paid one penny to be here. I took time
7 out of my busy schedule to be here, and again,
8 I'm very concerned. That is why I'm here.
9 Because our community is one of the very few
10 neighborhoods in the City of Detroit that is
11 still vibrant although we're gasping for fresh
12 air. So I'm just putting it out there. Thank
13 you very much.

14 Whar I bring to this microphone is to
15 delay or postpone or, better yet, stop whatever
16 needs to be done, because I think we've had
17 enough with one bridge and we're already building
18 another one. So enough is enough. Thank you.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms.
20 Rodriguez. Our next speaker will be Ms. Patrice
21 Hill who will be followed by Mr. Sheldon Hill.

22 MS. HILL: Hi, everyone. My names is

1 Patrice Hill. I'm for the bridge being built.
2 Like the other gentleman said, it is time for
3 something new. The old bridge is just that; the
4 old bridge. We need something new. We need
5 something strong. We need to bring money back to
6 Detroit. I just went to New York this past
7 summer and the park under the Brooklyn Bridge is
8 gorgeous. Why can't we have one? We need a park
9 for our kids to play, a safe place for our kids.
10 So I'm all for the bridge. Coast Guard, two
11 thumbs up. Keep it moving. Thank you.

12 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Hill.

13 Our next speaker will be Mr. Sheldon Hill who
14 will be followed by Pat Lewis.

15 MR. HILL: My name is Sheldon Hill and
16 I'm the president and CEO of Community Service
17 Organization working with the Detroit Recovery
18 Project. As we look at progress in our City and
19 I use the Riverwalk quite a bit on the other
20 side; it's nice to have one coming on this side.
21 With the bridge being built, I'm a bridge
22 carpenter by trade. I've helped build bridges

1 and experienced it. We did it and were able to
2 build a new bridge and the work that it brings to
3 the community and the economy is worth all of it.
4 The expansion--if you look at the growth in the
5 world and with that bridge being built and it
6 cuts us off quite a bit from what else can be
7 transported back and forth. It makes it a little
8 bit easier to move back and forth
9 internationally. It just makes sense.

10 I've looked at the reports and studies
11 where it says the Coast Guard has completed this
12 study they say for the past. I don't know how
13 much more needs to be done, but from what I
14 understand, no more needs to be done. It just
15 needs to be approved. I'm not going--my
16 understanding it just needs to be approved. My
17 understanding the approvals have already been
18 given. It just needs to move forward.

19 So those things have been taken care
20 of. What's the hold up? Get your final report and
21 go in and get the work done so we can get to work
22 and start having some fun in the park.

1 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Hill.
2 Our next speaker will be Speaker Number 12, Pat
3 Lewis who will be followed by Speaker 13, Ms.
4 Tedra Wilson.

5 MS. LEWIS: Good evening. I'm Pat
6 Lewis. I am a world traveler. I would like to
7 see here a world class bridge, a world class
8 park. We need to step up. I am in favor for the
9 bridge.

10 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Lewis.
11 Our next speaker will be Ms. Tedra Wilson who
12 will be followed by Mr. Mike Cleaver.

13 MS. WILSON: Hello. I'm glad to be
14 here today. I am in favor of the bridge. In my
15 35 years of living in Detroit I've never seen any
16 great accomplishments go without any resistance.
17 And so when it gets down to this point we come
18 out and we fight and we say what we have to say
19 to get our point across. I rode past the park
20 that everyone is speaking on on the way today and
21 it's nothing there; absolutely nothing.

22 I don't see what the problem would be

1 to get that riverfront, that world class park,
2 going on right there. I don't see why there is a
3 problem with moving forward with this. The
4 bridge is going to come with four thousand jobs
5 immediately. We need those jobs here in Detroit.
6 In my neighborhood, and I can only speak for
7 mine, the hopes for jobs and employment; I see a
8 lot of people going toward the automotive
9 companies; GM, Ford, Chrysler. Those are great
10 jobs, no doubt but there are other jobs that are
11 out here.

12 And I think bringing that construction
13 with the new bridge would definitely open up a
14 new arena for jobs, and I definitely want to see
15 the riverfront, the park, the world class park. I
16 want to see that happen for the children of
17 Southwest Detroit. They deserve a functional
18 park. It's just nothing there. It is empty and
19 where there's emptiness there's hopelessness. If
20 you can bring that park back to life by putting
21 that bridge together, I just want to see it done
22 just for the children. Maybe because it will

1 give them just a little bit of hope because it's
2 nothing there and it's empty, like I said. So I
3 just want to see that happen and that's why I'm
4 here today. Thank you.

5 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
6 Our next speaker will be Mr. Mike Cleaver, who
7 will be followed by Reverend Sherard.

8 MR. CLEAVER: Hello. I oppose the
9 bridge coming in for several reasons. One,
10 because I really feel we shouldn't have any
11 international bridge crossing publically owned.
12 In today's world that is ridiculous to me, and I
13 don't even know why the Coast Guard is even
14 thinking about allowing a permit for this.

15 Secondly, the Detroit International
16 Bridge Company has been here for many, many
17 decades. They make a lot of money on that
18 bridge, and they have not been a good partner to
19 this part of Detroit for ever. They pretend to
20 be but they really aren't. Okay. Drive up and
21 down this street and you see burned out buildings
22 all over the place. They, in my opinion, want

1 the property values of this area of Detroit to go
2 down so they can purchase more property and do
3 things inexpensively benefiting them. So again,
4 I'm opposed and have a blessed day.

5 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Cleaver.
6 Our next speaker will be Reverend Sherard who
7 will be followed by Ms. Kimberly Glenn.

8 REVEREND SHERARD: Good evening,
9 everyone. I'm Reverend Sherard. I do support
10 the Ambassador Bridge and I pray ya'll move
11 forward in this and pray that ya'll do something
12 about it. That's all I want to say.

13 MR. GARNEAU: Thank, Reverend Sherard.
14 Our next speaker will be Ms. Kimberly Glenn who
15 will be followed by Ms. Cynthia Whack.

16 MS. GLENN: My name is Kimberly Glenn.
17 I work at Detroit Recovery Project. I'm a long
18 term citizen of Detroit, Michigan. I've also
19 done a lot of travel across the bridge too, and I
20 also ran across the bridge in the Detroit
21 Marathon Free Press. It was a shaky road going
22 across that bridge. We were scared and it's time

1 for something new for our city. We need new
2 attractions. And putting a new bridge and new
3 park would not only help the citizens of Detroit
4 but it will help our out-of-town guests too. We
5 need something attractive. Our city has took a
6 hard hit back in 2008 and we need something new
7 for our City. And I'd like to thank the Coast
8 Guard for coming and listening to our comments
9 and concerns as well. Thank you.

10 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Glenn.
11 Our next speaker will be Ms. Cynthia Whack who
12 will be followed by Ms. Andria Walker.

13 MS. WHACK: My name is Cynthia Whack.
14 I'm with the Detroit Recovery Project. I would
15 like to tell you that I am for the bridge. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Whack.
18 Our next speaker will be Ms. Andria Walker who
19 will be followed by Mr. Eddie Killing.

20 MS. WALKER: Good afternoon. My name
21 is Andria Walker from the Detroit Recovery
22 Project. I just want to say I am a supporter of

1 the bridge. I want to thank the Coast Guard for
2 all of their research. You guys are the experts.
3 You did your research. Our concern that more
4 extensive testing that is just going to cost the
5 taxpayers more dollars; we don't have that. I
6 would encourage you to go ahead with this permit.
7 Build the bridge. Bring some jobs to Detroit. We
8 are suffering economically and I believe the
9 bridge and the park would help us tremendously.
10 And I want to thank you again for your support.

11 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Walker.

12 MR. GARNEAU: Our next speaker will be
13 Mr. Eddie Killing followed by Dwan Davis.

14 MR. KILLING: Hello. My name is Eddie
15 Killing. I'm a long time resident of Detroit; 51
16 years, also of Michigan. I want to thank the
17 Coast Guard for the analysis you've done; the
18 findings. Again, I believe, like everybody else,
19 you are the experts, and I believe you know what
20 you're doing. So I'm just going to say I believe
21 it's time that Detroit is revitalized. We're
22 coming back and this bridge will help in that. I

1 encourage you all to continue to move forward
2 with this bridge. Thank you.

3 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Killing.
4 Our next speaker is Mr. Dwan Davis followed by
5 Ms. Rachel Lang.

6 MR. DAVID: Good evening, everyone.
7 My name is Dwan Davis. I am an employee at the
8 Detroit Recovery Project. I appreciate you
9 pronouncing my name right. I used to get tore
10 off the frame and I allow individuals to
11 pronounce my name wrong so I really appreciate
12 that. I'm a supporter of the bridge. The facts
13 are clear here. I don't want to go all off into
14 a big old speech. I believe it's a lot of
15 feelings and emotions running around here. I
16 just want to say that I'm in favor of it and I
17 appreciate you guys here hearing my comments.

18 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Davis.
19 Our next speaker will be Ms. Rachel Lang who will
20 be followed by Robert Shakhun.

21 MS. LANG: Hi. My name is Rachel
22 Lang. I want to say I'm in support of the bridge.

1 I just moved back from DC. I lived there for
2 about seven years. And I love being here and I
3 love being back, but I hear so many of my
4 colleagues that I went to college with who are
5 from here who really don't want to come back
6 because they feel like there's nothing there. I
7 love my city and I'm supportive of anything that
8 will give us an economic boost and that will show
9 people that there is really something here so
10 thank you.

11 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Lang.

12 Our next speaker will be Mr. Robert Shakhun
13 followed by Mr. Carnell Alexander.

14 MR. SHAKHUN: I just want to say good
15 evening, everyone. I also support the bridge.
16 You know, Detroit we have suffered in the last
17 years from the blight, business going out of
18 town, and you know, I've been here most of my
19 life. I was in the military and I love this City
20 with all my heart. I just believe, you know,
21 enterprise and business like this, we need that
22 for this City because of the jobs.

1 You gotta employ people in this City
2 and also because I feel it's a move forward
3 making this a world class city and attracting
4 people back. I like to look out and see
5 something beautiful like that kind of bridge as
6 far as the transportation from here. So with
7 that, I don't have a lot to say. I'm just--ever
8 since I heard about it I was excited about it and
9 said oh yeah this might be a great venture here.
10 I just wanted to say that.

11 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Shakhun.
12 Our next speaker will be Carnell Alexander
13 followed by Ms. Sandy Arnold.

14 MR. ALEXANDER: Good evening,
15 everybody. My name is Carnell Alexander. I'm in
16 Local Laborers 91. I support the bridge for two
17 reasons. I support that you approve the permit.
18 I used to use that park and I also need a job. I
19 thank you for hearing me.

20 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr.
21 Alexander. Our next speaker will be Mr. Sandy
22 Arnold followed by Mr. Walter Suber.

1 MR. ARNOLD: I'd like to just say
2 thank you for coming out and I'd like to support
3 the bridge, which I do support the bridge. I am
4 from Detroit Recovery Project. I would just like
5 to say thank you for the hard work that you've
6 done. Detroit needs the bridge for economical
7 boost and also to be a catalyst for other cities.
8 You know, no other city is thriving like Detroit.
9 Within the next ten years we will be standing out
10 by ourselves.

11 Another thing I'd like to say that
12 when you do build this bridge, and I know you're
13 going to build it because you put a lot of work
14 in it to build it, you put a lot of time in it,
15 the people who are opposing it are going to like
16 it because it's going to be beautiful anyway. So
17 we're going to all come together regardless. But
18 I know you're going to build it because we need
19 it. When you do get it up, the people who are
20 opposing it are going to enjoy it just like the
21 people who are for it right now.

22 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Arnold.

1 Our next speaker will be Mr. Walter Suber
2 followed by Mr. Ryan Marshall.

3 MR. SUBER: Hello. Thank you. My
4 name is Walter Subert. I'm with the Detroit
5 Recovery Project. I'm here also in support of
6 this bridge being built. I want to say thank you
7 Coast Guard for your vision, for just the hard
8 work and research. I know that it has not been
9 easy day in and day out, but I also believe that
10 this is the great time for this bridge to be
11 built.

12 This City needs change, and I think
13 it's the right time for it with the
14 transformation that has gone on in the City.
15 Also, I believe that it will create jobs for
16 local contractors. It will be good for business
17 and definitely it will bring an attraction that
18 the Detroiters and Canada will be proud of.
19 Also, I believe it will be an attraction for the
20 rest of Americans and also for tourists; for
21 people to tour. Excuse me for that. Thank you
22 and I'm in support of the bridge being built.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Suber.
3 Our next speaker will be Ryan Marshall followed
4 by Wanda Redmond.

5 MR. MARSHALL: My name is Ryan
6 Marshall and I'm a resident of Southwest Detroit
7 and architectural and environmental designer, and
8 I would just like to say that the location of the
9 Ambassador Bridge is an example of the very poor
10 urban planning. There is no room on either side
11 of the border to expand customs and inspections
12 plaza without destroying historical communities.

13 A twin bridge with adding additional
14 lanes would not solve traffic congestion because
15 the traffic will always bottle neck with limited
16 space for inspection infrastructure on both sides
17 of the existing bridge and its infrastructure.
18 The conversation is usually about how the new
19 boarding--how bridge will have a positive impact
20 with Canada but moving trucks away from the
21 Ambassador will also be the right thing to do for
22 the USA because the existing bridge is located

1 equally as close to downtown Windsor as it is to
2 downtown Detroit and densely populated in
3 communities in the U.S.

4 Take a look at the property and
5 Gateway Project, which MDOT was responsible for,
6 and you will see that MDOT planted trees to help
7 filter some of the air toxins from the truck
8 traffic. Take a look at the property owned and
9 operated by the DIBC and you will see that it is
10 almost all hard surface concrete which much of
11 their property is not utilized for vehicular
12 circulation or any function at all.

13 The DIBC has the opportunity to
14 contribute to clean diesel programs in the
15 overall environment. The Gateway Project highway
16 connections are an improvement but it still
17 functions as a messy afterthought and it was not
18 worthwhile for trucks. If the Coast Guard's
19 responsibility is to protect the coast, then
20 consider the existing Ambassador Bridge as part
21 of our heritage.

22 And, by the proposal to put a new

1 bridge right next to the existing bridge, it will
2 only appear as cluttered at the coast and in the
3 skyline. Instead, consider the DIBC has to agree
4 to properly restore and maintain the existing
5 Ambassador Bridge and accept the future. The
6 future of the Windsor Detroit truck crossing is
7 not the Ambassador Bridge nor is the Ambassador
8 Bridge Enhancement Project Proposal. Please help
9 protect the U.S. Coast and do not grant the
10 permit to build a second span. Please do the
11 right thing.

12 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Marshall.
13 Our next speaker will be Ms. Wanda Redmond
14 followed by Don Ricci.

15 MS. REDMOND: Good afternoon. First
16 of all, I'd like to thank the Coast Guard for
17 being here this evening and I would also like to
18 thank you for the work that you do on behalf of
19 the United States citizens.

20 My name is Wanda Redmond. I'm the
21 vice president of the Marcus Garvey Movement.
22 I'm also a duly elected school board member

1 serving in Detroit, Michigan; however, I am here
2 in the capacity of the Marcus Garvey Movement. I
3 too support the Detroit International Bridge
4 Company second span. I do understand the
5 importance of the environmental assessment. I do
6 understand that we have--the bridge company has
7 had about three of them done since 1994. The
8 Detroit International Bridge Company began talks
9 about the second span in about '94, and as you
10 know, its been decades since.

11 We didn't come upon these problems
12 like we are now, I believe, until Governor Snyder
13 decided he wanted to build a bridge and enter
14 into an interlocal agreement with Canada. That's
15 when DIBC began to have most of their problems. I
16 also support the bridge company because during
17 the economic downturn the bridge company did not
18 move its operations out of Michigan. We
19 understand that they do have worldwide holdings
20 but yet they did not contribute to the decline of
21 the employment in Michigan.

22 As relates to the park, the park was

1 mentioned. We do know that we have to have State
2 and Federal approval for the park. But I doubt
3 very seriously if President Obama would send
4 millions of dollars to Detroit for blight removal
5 and then turn around and then not approve the use
6 of the park. So I think as relates to Federal
7 approval we can look favorably upon that.

8 In addition, there was an article that
9 appeared in the Detroit Free Press the other day.
10 When the Department of Natural Resources and the
11 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
12 asked the Coast Guard not to issue the permit for
13 the bridge, well, again, it is another insult
14 upon the people. If anything, the Michigan
15 Department of Environmental Quality need to be
16 concentrating on Flint right now and go and
17 approve the permit because it seems that the
18 State of Michigan is more interested in building
19 international relations than it is with building
20 relations with its own people here in the State
21 of Michigan.

22 Also, according to the republican

1 platform, Government is supposed to deal with
2 Government and businesses are supposed to deal
3 with businesses. We have a company in the bridge
4 business that has been building bridges and
5 dealing with bridges for over 80 years. Let them
6 continue. Issue the permit. It has been
7 approved. Thank you.

8 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Redmond.
9 Our next speaker will be Mr. Don Ricci who will
10 be followed by Mr. Robert Bruce.

11 MR. RICCI: I'm Don Ricci with the
12 Detroit Institute of Technology and we are
13 definitely for the bridge. The Coast Guard has
14 done their studies. Let's move forward. One of
15 the biggest problems that the City of Detroit has
16 is unemployment. We need jobs and we need them
17 now so let's get this bridge going. Let's get
18 the jobs. Not only do we have the construction
19 jobs but you have all the other jobs related that
20 will come after the bridge is built. So we're
21 definitely for building the bridge. Thank you.

22 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Ricci.

1 Our next speaker is Mr. Robert Bruce followed by
2 Dawnyell Thompson.

3 MR. BRUCE: Good evening. My name is
4 Robert Bruce. I am a resident of the City of
5 Detroit. I have been a resident for 45 years.

6 I'm in support of the bridge being built. If you
7 will look at different projects that have been
8 put forth over the years, most of the time when
9 you do something for progress you're going to
10 have somebody that's not going to like it.

11 Because when you progress in doing something,
12 especially for a city that's already been having
13 been through something, something is going to
14 have to be torn down, something is going to have
15 to be removed. There's agreements that's going
16 to have to be made and somebody is not going to
17 be satisfied with what's being done.

18 Take for instance years ago Coleman
19 Young wanted GM to build a plant over on the east
20 side. There was many people against it, but it
21 was a dilapidated and blighted area. They built
22 the Poletown Plant. The Poletown Plant has been

1 paying taxes. The area looks good. Also, with a
2 larger bridge and with more access for travel you
3 won't have trucks backed up two and three miles
4 down the expressway. You get more pollution with
5 them just standing and waiting to try to get over
6 the bridge than if you had quicker access to get
7 them over there quicker.

8 Also, the park; that issue has been
9 settled. The City of Detroit went into agreement
10 with the bridge company. So I just--I'm in
11 agreement for the bridge being built and I hope
12 and pray that you all will look at this with an
13 open mind and realize that progress, when you
14 have progress, there's going to be some people
15 that's going to be dissatisfied. But usually you
16 will find that the ones that's dissatisfied, when
17 the progress is made, like I told you about the
18 Poletown Plant, then the people look at it and
19 they like what's going on. Thank you.

20 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Bruce.
21 Our next speaker will be Ms. Dawnyell Thompson
22 who will be followed by Ms. Deb Sumner.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Hello to the Coast
2 Guard. Thank you for being here. My name is
3 Dawnyell Thompson and I'm here representing with
4 my leadership of the Marcus Garvey Movement. I'm
5 for the bridge, and the reason why is because I
6 grew up in Southwest Detroit. I also worked for
7 the Ambassador Bridge in '98 or '99. And as far
8 as I can remember, they have been a wonderful
9 company. I have never had a problem with them.
10 They're doing so many beautiful things in this
11 neighborhood. Why stop them for what they're
12 doing now?

13 And so when I worked there, like I
14 said, they were a great company to work for. I
15 never had a problem with them. Also, like I
16 said, I'm from Southwest Detroit. I grew up over
17 there. Even they bought the old train station.
18 They didn't have to do that. They put new
19 windows in there. So they're trying to beautify
20 certain things in the area.

21 When I grew up in that neighborhood it
22 was disgusting; it was terrible. Nothing. We

1 had the parks down there. We also had the
2 recreational center, which was--which is now the
3 Clemente Center. I noticed that they are doing
4 some building around there but they can do more.
5 And if they want to do more to the City, let
6 them. What's the problem? Stop holding this up
7 and let's build this bridge. We need more
8 beautification. We need more jobs and let's keep
9 it moving. Thank you.

10 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.
11 The next speaker will be Ms. Deb Sumner followed
12 by Ms. Raquel Castaneda-Lopez.

13 MS. SUMNER: Dear, Coast Guard
14 representatives, please keep in mind who you are
15 dealing with when we speak of a
16 multi-billionaire. And that I, as a resident,
17 who has resided three blocks away from the
18 Ambassador Bridge for over 34 years, I am not
19 paid to be here tonight to speak. And know that
20 our City Council, not all of them supported Mayor
21 Duggan's deal with the bridge. It became very
22 politicized.

1 Know that people are paid to be at
2 public hearings. Know that I live here, grew up
3 here. I know that this permit remains
4 incomplete. Nothing has changed. They do not
5 have legal authority, sufficient legal authority.
6 They do not own this property. You must deny.
7 You must also deny because we need you to protect
8 us.

9 We need a full environmental impact
10 study. I implore you, I live three blocks away.
11 Our park, that Riverside Park; everybody wants
12 our one hundred plus year old park to be a world
13 class park. Are you going to breathe all the
14 cumulative pollution with a ten-lane bridge? You
15 talk about a six-lane new bridge by a privately
16 owned company who can't even maintain the
17 Ambassador Bridge, the beautiful historic
18 Ambassador Bridge.

19 This bridge is in dire need of repair
20 and there has been extreme neglect. This has
21 been in the papers. Windsor had closed streets
22 because the concrete was falling down on the

1 people in the traffic. This is a travesty. Why
2 would we not expect that this first be looked at?
3 What type of steward has this bridge company been
4 to the Ambassador? We just supported, this
5 community, supported and planned for over ten
6 years for a public bridge because a public bridge
7 is in the best interest of public policy and the
8 people of this community and city.

9 We are trying to get community
10 benefits around the Gordie Howe Bridge. We the
11 people deserve community benefits. We deserve a
12 full environmental impact study that was
13 conducted there. You're going to have how many
14 bridges in one condensed area? We already have
15 the worst pollution in the area. 48209 and 48216
16 is right next to 48217. So I beg you, I implore
17 you, to know--keep in mind who you're dealing
18 with and who these people are that are speaking
19 for the bridge. Know that I am not paid. Again,
20 I am here as a resident within three blocks away.
21 The truth is the truth. Please put all--take all
22 measures into consideration. I implore you.

1 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Sumer.
2 Our next speaker will be Ms. Raquel
3 Castaneda-Lopez followed by Julia Morrissey.

4 MS. CASTANEDA-LOPEZ: Good evening.
5 I came to speak as a resident but I wanted to
6 just clarify a couple things in my capacity as a
7 District City Council member who represents
8 District 6 which encompasses the Ambassador
9 Bridge, the Gordie Howe Bridge as well as the
10 proposed wing span. And then I'll clarify and
11 speak as a resident.

12 As a council member, I'd like to echo
13 State Representative Stephanie Chang's request to
14 not move forward with the approval until there is
15 an approved land conversion from the State as
16 well as the Federal Government as well as a
17 complete full environmental study done prior to
18 issuance of a permit. And I want to clarify
19 quickly, no one council member can speak for the
20 City as a whole. And after speaking to our
21 City's attorneys they are of the opinion that
22 this agreement, the land agreement conducted last

1 year, does not grant legal interest of Riverside
2 Park to the Bridge Company. However, for
3 political reasons, I have yet to get them to say
4 that on the record but I did want to let you know
5 that.

6 The other piece is for those of you
7 here concerned about Riverside Park. Riverside
8 Park is going to open in April and the repairs
9 are set to go. So this deal has nothing to do
10 with Riverside Park. The final piece to clarify,
11 those of you interested in jobs in relation to
12 the bridge, there are many job opportunities on
13 the way and many job opportunities and I
14 encourage you to get connected to those job
15 opportunities.

16 In relationship to my final point, my
17 written comments will be submitted on-line, but I
18 wanted to speak to you tonight as a resident. As
19 somebody born and raised in Southwest Detroit I
20 grew up less than an mile of the existing
21 Ambassador Bridge. I grew up down the street on
22 Clark in the shadow of the existing Ambassador

1 Bridge. As a child I never questioned the
2 traffic and the trucks as it was the norm. I
3 knew nothing different. But when my uncle died
4 in an accident when a semi-truck hit him and my
5 mother and sister were injured in a car accident
6 with a semi-truck I began to question why there
7 were so many trucks in our neighborhood.

8 Daily I awake to the sound of idling
9 semi-trucks outside of my house. While this
10 project isn't about trucks directly, it is
11 questionable--it is something to be questioned in
12 relation to the Ambassador Bridge, which will
13 have significant impact on local traffic in the
14 surrounding communities. While my stories and
15 other stories of residents shared here today may
16 not be considered scientific data, they are
17 invaluable in your decision in regard to the
18 permit application. I am deeply disappointed
19 that in your reevaluation the Coast Guard is
20 dismissive of the potential impact of this
21 project on traffic and the quality of life of
22 residents of the surrounding area.

1 Any project of this scale warns a
2 comprehensive analysis of the potential impact of
3 the whole community and that should take
4 precedence. I think everyone has value but those
5 living in a shadow and under the bridge should be
6 given priority given the burden they would have
7 to bear. Aside from the potential traffic issues
8 this project would bring, there's many other red
9 flags in the evaluation, which I will address in
10 my comments.

11 As I stated earlier, any project of
12 this scale warrants an environmental impact
13 study, and as a Government entity it is the first
14 responsibility to protect the health and best
15 interest of the residents in the City of Detroit
16 and I encourage you to not sell us out in light
17 of what has happened recently in Flint. Your due
18 diligence is important especially with this
19 project. I would have to say do not fail the
20 City of Detroit. So often communities of color
21 and local communities are ignored. Thank you for
22 your consideration.

1 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms.
2 Castaneda-Lopez. Our next speaker will be Ms.
3 Julia Morrissey who will be followed by Reverend
4 Malik Shabazz.

5 MS. MORRISSEY: Hi, my name is Julia
6 Morrissey and I'm here to speak on behalf of
7 myself as well as the Michigan Nurses
8 Association. Both as a registered nurse and a
9 mother of two very young children I am very
10 concerned that the approval of the bridge is just
11 moving too swiftly. We have all heard statistics
12 about the connection between diesel emissions and
13 poor health outcomes.

14 I would like there to be a focus on
15 the risks of children who are living in an area
16 that is already documented as harmful to their
17 health. These children are being exposed to
18 toxins that cause lifelong problems including
19 increased asthma risks. I would respectfully,
20 very respectfully, suggest that we consider the
21 damage that has been done to a generation of
22 children in Flint, Michigan and how difficult it

1 would be to deal with the exposure of toxins
2 after they--after the fact.

3 We by contrast in this moment have the
4 opportunity to prevent a toxic environment from
5 getting worse. As you know, diesel emissions are
6 a known carcinogen. As a nurse I've had the
7 privilege of working with many individuals who
8 are dealing with cancer. Many, many times there
9 is no known--no non-direct cause to their cancer.
10 But in the cases where there is a direct link,
11 how many lives and how much heartache would be
12 saved if we stopped cancer from developing in the
13 first place.

14 Here we literally have a chance to
15 prevent cancer and other serious illnesses by
16 limited exposure to these diesel emissions. That
17 is a very powerful opportunity and
18 responsibility. Every parent, every parent wants
19 their child to grow up safe and healthy and have
20 success in their life, and children should have
21 the right to that no matter where they live. No
22 parents would force their child to smoke. How is

1 it okay that children would be forced to inhale
2 toxic chemicals like Benzene just by virtue of
3 where they live. Children should not have to
4 struggle with something as basic as being able to
5 breathe.

6 In conclusion, I'm going to urge you,
7 the U.S. Coast Guard, to conduct a complete
8 updated environmental impact study before making
9 a decision about this bridge. I urge you to
10 consider the economic cost of increased
11 hospitalizations, children who cannot succeed in
12 school and people who are not healthy enough to
13 go to work. I urge you first and foremost,
14 though, to think of the lives and the human
15 potential that would be lost if this plan moves
16 forward.

17 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms.
18 Morrissey. Our next speaker will be Reverend
19 Malik Shabazz who will be followed by Patrick
20 Crouch.

21 REVEREND SHABAZZ: Give an honor to
22 God. I'd like to thank you all for holding this

1 meeting, and I want to thank everyone who came
2 out. Whatever your view may be, for or against,
3 at least you care. So we should all give
4 ourselves a hand. Can we do that? At least
5 caring and the fact that we have a position. But
6 my position is that we need the jobs. We need
7 the jobs. We need the economic development. This
8 has gone on too long. Enough with the
9 pussyfooting and the dillydally. We've done our
10 analysis. You all have approved it. All we want
11 now is that you issue the permit so that
12 Detroiters can get to work; so that Detroiters
13 can spend some money, pay property taxes, become
14 homeowners right here where we live.

15 As was stated earlier, so many
16 companies during what they call the great
17 recession--why don't we just be honest? Wasn't no
18 great recession; it was a depression. And most
19 of us, most poor people, working class people,
20 working poor people, black and brown people and
21 even poor whites, we have yet to benefit from the
22 economic recovery that is going on now. We need

1 the jobs. Let's put Detroiters to work rebuilding
2 Detroit, and part of rebuilding Detroit is to
3 have a new bridge. Once again, I want to thank
4 you for holding this meeting. I want to thank
5 you for listening to us. I want to thank you for
6 already approving it. Now it's only one thing we
7 want. Issue the permit. Thank you and God bless
8 you.

9 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Reverend
10 Shabazz. Our next speaker will be Mr. Patrick
11 Crouch who will be followed by Mr. John Prusak.

12 MR. CROUCH: Again, my name is Patrick
13 Crouch. I think--I am a resident of 48216, about
14 five blocks away from the bridge; the current
15 bridge. I think a lot of residents are being
16 painted as being opposed to international bridges
17 in the neighborhood. We're not. We already have
18 one. I think a lot of us are also being
19 portrayed as being against progress. And I think
20 what we really need to think about as progress is
21 having healthy air for all of our children. And
22 we can't put a cost on that.

1 I can see the Ambassador Bridge every
2 night from my two and half year old son's window
3 as I put him to bed and I can hear the rumbling
4 noise from the bridge. I'm thinking about what
5 his future is. He has the right to have a future
6 with clean air. And I think about the high
7 levels of asthma that are already in my
8 neighborhood. And I get concerned every time we
9 go to the doctor that that's going to be the one
10 that they're going to diagnose him with. So it's
11 very important to me that until a full EPA study
12 is done that we not issue a permit. Thank you.

13 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Crouch.
14 Our next speaker will be Mr. John Prusak who will
15 be followed by Commissioner Ray Basham.

16 MR. PRUSAK: Hello. My name is John
17 Prusak. I live in Corktown. I've been a
18 resident of Detroit all my life and the last 31
19 years in Corktown; that's a long time. I'm
20 against the proposed bridge until there is more
21 studies on the impact, and it's affecting, as was
22 just said, it's affecting everyone. We can't see

1 it. You can see the trucks, though. If you're
2 coming down Fort Street when you were coming to
3 this meeting, you can see the trucks idling on
4 the bridge, on the Ambassador Bridge. We're
5 going to be multiplying that by two or three
6 times with more pollution and it's going to
7 affect all of us. We can't see the pollution
8 sometimes but it's there. Thank you.

9 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Prusak.
10 Our next speaker will be Ray Basham followed by
11 Kyle Brucknar.

12 MR. BASHAM: I know my time is limited
13 so I gave my technical remarks to the
14 stenographer. But having been formerly a State
15 Senator, now a County Commissioner, I've dealt
16 with this issue. I have watched and observed and
17 even had conversations about the fifty lawsuits
18 from the International Bridge Company trying to
19 stop the next bridge. Everybody knows we need a
20 bridge but we need a public crossing. We need a
21 public crossing that supports everybody. We need
22 a freeway-to-freeway connection. Whether we like

1 it or not, the bridge has to go somewhere. This
2 should not be a bridge to nowhere.

3 Windsor is our partner and the public
4 crossing supports Windsor and also U.S. and
5 Canada. This bridge does not. It's a shame that
6 we spent 126 million dollars of taxpayer money to
7 connect to the current property and the owner had
8 to be actually locked up to get him to comply
9 with the agreement that he made with MDOT. So we
10 can go on and on and on, and essentially, if the
11 Coast Guard does their job and makes sure that
12 they have a freeway-to-freeway connection, that
13 the environmental impact studies, current one,
14 are done then the public crossing will go forward
15 and it will go forward in the interest of the
16 public.

17 And if you look at the history of the
18 Ambassador Bridge they have not been good
19 corporate citizens in any way. I don't predict
20 that will be good corporate citizens going
21 forward. It's the only large--there's two
22 international border crossings that are privately

1 owned; one in Minnesota and this one. This is
2 one of the busiest bridges in North America. And
3 they fault--actually, the Governor of the State
4 of Michigan had talked to President Obama and
5 around the Michigan Legislature to move the
6 public crossing forward. The public crossing has
7 support of republicans in Ohio, believe it or
8 not, and Texas but we couldn't get our
9 Legislature initially to support public crossing.

10 This is all about them trying to
11 manipulate the regulations and strong arming the
12 public trying to get what they want, and
13 essentially we would already be crossing the
14 public crossing. We would be dealing with some
15 of the environmental impact studies. We wouldn't
16 be seeing the long lines that we're seeing today
17 if they hadn't delayed this public crossing for
18 ten to fifteen years that they worked on trying
19 to stop any kind of competition. So, thank you.
20 My technical comments I gave to the stenographer.

21 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Basham.
22 Our next speaker will be Kyle Brucknar followed

1 by Ms. Gwendolyn Greene.

2 MR. BRUCKNAR: I want to start by
3 saying thank you to the Coast Guard. I was
4 talking to sailors outside in the lobby and I
5 always really enjoyed--can you hear me now?
6 Thank you, Coast Guard. My name is Kyle Brucknar
7 and I want to thank you for recognizing me. I am
8 a student at Wayne State University Law School
9 and my grandparents are from Vernor Highway so
10 I've been coming to Southwest Detroit for a long
11 time.

12 The current environment assessment
13 contains procedural shortfalls and I think the
14 community deserves a full environmental impact
15 statement. I think that this permit needs to be
16 on hold until these issues are addressed. Under
17 the performances traffic analysis in 2006 and
18 2014 I question whether or not this permit should
19 be issued and thought about the Detroit 2014 and
20 where Detroit is today and will be in the future
21 and the extent to which we need to consider that
22 reality.

1 Additionally, to talk about the six
2 lanes of traffic, I'm just concerned about the
3 drive will have upon the citizens. So I think at
4 this point you should do the analysis. This
5 community is breathing bad air right now and
6 that's something to be very concerned about. The
7 study talks about the small contribution that
8 this project anticipates to contribute in the
9 area, but think it's the wrong perspective. I
10 think we want to look at it from how far are we
11 are into the project and I think you'll find the
12 percentage is larger obviously.

13 So lastly, it was spoken about the
14 modeling in 2014. The point--the fact of the
15 matter is the ETA comes out with new software so
16 that the most current information is available to
17 assess our mobile impact; the mobile impact and
18 the reevaluation that just occurred does not
19 reflect the current software. I think that's
20 something that really needs to be considered. I
21 thank you for the opportunity to speak and good
22 night.

1 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Brucknar.
2 Our next speaker will be Ms. Gwendolyn Greene
3 followed by Ms. Debra Walker.

4 MS. GREENE: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Gwendolyn Greene and I'd like to thank the
6 United States Coast Guard for coming and
7 providing some clarity to such a complex
8 situation. I've been a Detroit citizen for over
9 53 years. I've basically been here through the
10 good times, the bad times, the ugly times;
11 through it all I've been here.

12 I'm actually in support of the bridge
13 enhancement project, because I feel like that it
14 will bring jobs to the City of Detroit. It will
15 also bring jobs to the businesses or it will
16 bring economical increases to the businesses in
17 Southwest Detroit. I'm always in Southwest
18 Detroit. I go and I have lunch so I'm very much
19 aware of what's going on in Southwest Detroit.

20 I think you guys did your job. They
21 wanted you to do an environmental assessment.
22 You've done that so we need to move forward. It

1 is what it is. Let's move on. I am in favor of
2 the bridge. Thank you.

3 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Greene.
4 Our next speaker will be Ms. Debra Walker which
5 will be followed by Mr. Ray Starks.

6 MS. WALKER: Good evening. I'm Debra
7 Walker, a lifetime resident of this wonderful
8 City of Detroit, currently residing in Corktown.
9 I looked at the Coast Guard's mission statement.
10 The first words say to protect the public and the
11 environment. Just listening to that I don't know
12 why we're even here because you need to do a full
13 environmental impact study and you need to do a
14 recent one and not look at this old stuff so you
15 have people out here being misguided and misled.
16 So that's what you need to do to protect me, my
17 family and this neighborhood.

18 The whole thing about the park; people
19 keep talking about they want a park. The park is
20 coming. When they all came on the bus; they want
21 to keep the park. They kept the park. But when
22 they had meetings to plan the park, none of them

1 were here to plan Riverside Park. But now
2 they're back again in our neighborhood. If
3 somebody was trying to put something that was
4 going to be polluting their neighborhood in their
5 backyard where would--I would be there to support
6 not doing that. But this is here.

7 They have the highest incidents of
8 asthma and lung disease in the City of Detroit.
9 It is a proven fact that environmental
10 catastrophes happen more in neighborhoods of
11 brown people throughout the country. Why do we
12 continue to allow this kind of thing to happen?
13 If somebody wants to talk about a City Council
14 person lying in writing, City Council person, I'm
15 not saying his name, George Cushingberry, said
16 the residents of the City of Detroit support
17 this; that's a lie. Because I'm a resident of
18 the City of Detroit and I do not support this.

19 You need to stick to your mission and
20 do those three words that we've all heard
21 recently. Do your job. Because the people keep
22 talking about we need jobs. There is a bridge

1 coming. Work over there. Council person told you
2 how to get a job there. Talk about the park; the
3 park is going to be opening. People keep talking
4 about the city needs these things. I'm going to
5 say at what cost? Not at the cost of my lungs.

6 So I'm just asking you; I'm begging
7 you, and I shouldn't have to. Because you're
8 paid with my tax dollars, so you do your job.
9 You do your due diligence. You keep us safe.
10 You keep us all safe and you do the right thing
11 and do not allow this permit. Thank you.

12 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Walker.
13 Our next speaker will be Mr. Ray Starks followed
14 by Mr. Thomas Galea.

15 MR. STARKS: Good evening. Ray Starks
16 here. I want to give a special thank you to the
17 Coast Guard. You guys do a wonderful job. It
18 seems to be that when it comes to change there's
19 fear. You know, by adding a new bridge, the
20 economic value, yes; there are concerns about
21 safety and health, but that's like that all over
22 the world. There's concern about air, water, all

1 that; we get that. But when people oppose things
2 that will beautify the City of Detroit and give
3 jobs to the people, I don't understand that.
4 People are crying out for work and they need
5 help.

6 So things will come and bring people
7 to this city as this bridge and the shops and the
8 areas in southwest and the mom and pop stores, I
9 look forward to that. I'm a traveler too. I
10 like to travel around the world, but I don't want
11 to go into an area that's been decrepit with
12 nothing there. You build something beautiful,
13 people, like the lady said, there's change,
14 there's hope. You can see it at face value. It's
15 time for a change. Build the bridge. Let's move
16 forward.

17 I want to have a sense of when I walk
18 through the City of Detroit I want to be proud.
19 The Coast Guard, you guys do an awesome job. You
20 risk your lives. If anybody know about air
21 quality and water, it's you. I don't know about
22 those things. But I do know if we build this

1 bridge and jobs, bring people to a sense of
2 saying that their city is coming back, I'm all
3 for it. It's a lot of people that do, you know,
4 we support this.

5 It's not about whose pointing blame
6 and finger and tax dollars and all that. That's
7 irrelevant right now. Beautify the city. Get
8 people moving. Get people's spirits uplifted.
9 Let's join together, unify, harmony and let's put
10 all this aside and move forward. It's time to
11 move forward. Thank you.

12 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Starks.
13 Our next speaker will be Mr. Thomas Galea
14 followed by Simone Sagovac.

15 MR. GALEA: Hello. I'm Tom Galea and
16 I'm 62 years old born, raised and still live in
17 Detroit, Southwest Detroit. I live closer than
18 anybody here. I live one block from the
19 Ambassador Bridge. Right on the corner of Fort
20 Street and West Grand Boulevard. Crest Motel; my
21 house is next door to that, 151 West Grand
22 Boulevard. Next to that is an Apartment with 24

1 units and I own that. Ten years ago the news
2 came by driving around. They stopped me and
3 asked me what did I think. I said it's his
4 money. Let him build the bridge. The only
5 reason the air pollution, people don't
6 understand, the only reason air pollution is so
7 much is because it takes so long to get across
8 the bridge and all the trucks are wasting gas.

9 Number two, I'm not for the Gordie
10 Howe bridge even though it's fine if they build
11 it because it ain't our bridge. It's a Canadian
12 bridge. So if you all want some jobs you don't
13 know what you talking about. When they build
14 this bridge over here it's going to be American
15 labor, it's American jobs. They will use
16 American steel, American cement, American stock
17 and he's already for it.

18 I don't like the guy personally. He's
19 made a few mistakes in his life; the guy who owns
20 the bridge. People work for him have a few
21 problems. I personally don't like him either.
22 But you know what? What's it got to do with that?

1 That's a Canadian bridge down there, Gordie Howe.
2 My great, great, great, great, great grand kids
3 ain't gonna see a penny from that bridge. That's
4 a Canadian bridge. They use Canadian labor,
5 steel, cement and everything. Only people gonna
6 make out down there are the people that buy their
7 houses and their property.

8 Here he's all ready. Only problem
9 down here we're 20 years too late. We should
10 have had that bridge 20 years ago. The only
11 reason he never fixed that--I'm not getting paid
12 to do none of this. Keep in mind, my apartment
13 building is full with 20 people on the waiting
14 list. My motel is full every day. He ain't
15 gonna help me a bit. Ain't none of this bridge
16 gonna give me a penny in my pocket anyway. I'm
17 not here to get paid for nothing. He don't need
18 my money to build a bridge. It has nothing to do
19 with him.

20 I'm telling it the way it is. People
21 are fooled. People think that down here they're
22 gonna get a job. There ain't gonna be no job. If

1 you want a job, let that man, Manuel Moroun,
2 build his bridge with his money. Let Michigan
3 use the money to fix the roads, the cement, our
4 schools, to fix Flint. The mission is to fix
5 their water in Flint and all that. They don't
6 need to build a bridge. Let him use his billion
7 dollars to build the bridge. In Michigan use
8 their money. This has been going on for years
9 and years and years. It's all a bunch of
10 bullshit. Let them build the bridge and post the
11 permit.

12 The lung problem, that's because all
13 the trucks are backed up. A family got killed
14 two months ago because the trucks are stopped on
15 I-75. She had a bunch of kids in the car and the
16 car ran into the back of the truck and all the
17 family was killed right on I-75. It almost
18 happened to me because all of a sudden I say
19 damn, the truck stopped. So they need that
20 bridge. They should have had it 20 years ago.
21 I'm one hundred percent for the bridge.

22 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Galea.

1 MR. GALEA: Thank you very much.
2 Thank you for everything. And if there's any
3 questions everybody knows where I'm at. I been
4 here all my life, 62 years.

5 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you. Our next
6 speaker is Ms. Simone Sagovac followed by Mr.
7 Scott Brines.

8 MS. SAGOVAC: Thank you. My name is
9 Simone Sagovac. I'm a resident in this community
10 where I've lived for 25 years a few blocks from
11 the entrance of the Ambassador Bridge. The
12 environmental assessment conducted as a basis for
13 this project is outdated. The traffic
14 projections are not accurate. The full
15 environmental impact study that was completed for
16 the other bridge, the Gordie Howe Bridge,
17 indicates more than a double lane of truck
18 traffic.

19 We have concern about diesel emissions
20 exposure for any such development. Residents in
21 this community of course want jobs, but how
22 developments are done matters to protect

1 communities. In our community in Southwest
2 Detroit we have the highest concentration of
3 children in the City of Detroit. The highest
4 number of children that are under age five.
5 Residents, adults in the ZIP code that includes
6 the Ambassador Bridge have asthma hospitalization
7 rates three times the rates of residents in the
8 State of Michigan and that ZIP code's major
9 industry is the bridge.

10 We have residents getting asthma in
11 their 40s, 50s and 60s in the community. It is
12 highly unusual but not for us. We have many
13 severe health complications. The University of
14 Michigan did a long term air and health study,
15 various studies, on Southwest Detroit. They
16 found the highest association between
17 concentration of mobile source pollution and
18 increased high blood pressure which leads to
19 heart attacks and premature death. No permit
20 should be granted by the U.S. Coast Guard without
21 a full environmental impact study in order to
22 guarantee that the impact to the local community

1 are assessed and the protections are addressed.

2 The bridge company proposes to keep
3 open the existing Ambassador Bridge for overflow
4 or special events, which could be ten lanes of
5 use as you've heard. This alone requires an
6 environmental impact study; as the project at six
7 lanes or possibly ten lanes is not a replacement
8 for the four lane bridge. Any development
9 project of this magnitude requires necessary
10 protections for our residents in our community,
11 which I would expect to protect residents in any
12 community in the City of Detroit where you also
13 face development projects like we do time and
14 time again.

15 So I thank you for your strong
16 consideration for these comments, and as you
17 consider the proposed international development
18 you must fully consider and agree that the air
19 and water protections with a current and adequate
20 assessment of the affected communities or both
21 sides of the border. Please do not cut corners.
22 Do not waive anything through. We need all our

1 agencies to provide the greatest protection for
2 us. Thank you.

3 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Sagovac.
4 Our next speak will be Mr. Scott Brines followed
5 by Lamar Williams.

6 MR. BRINES: Thank you. I think our
7 last speaker was very thorough in outlining the
8 health issues. Our community knows major
9 industrial and transportation and this bridge, if
10 you approve this permit, will allow more of that
11 pollution into our neighborhood and we can't have
12 that right now. We have to assess it properly.
13 There's a regional transportation study that
14 should include this bridge.

15 There should be an environmental
16 impact study done on this, again, updated. There
17 should also be a wait until the land transfer is
18 complete, and we need a health impact study to
19 show the impacts that are current right now. With
20 all this cumulative pollution we keep adding and
21 adding and adding, it's a problem. It's a
22 problem for the young children that are trying to

1 learn. You can't learn when you are experiencing
2 all these health issues.

3 So, in the name of progress and jobs,
4 which are created when we do try to protect each
5 other. With new technology you can do diesel
6 emissions reductions programs. There's all kinds
7 of opportunities with this bridge instead of just
8 saying shove it through. There's been a lot of
9 misinformation. It's really horrible to see the
10 misinformation that's spread around in this room.
11 People that are shipped in to speak on behalf of
12 a man that does not care about the impact he's
13 having on the community here.

14 There are no buffers between what you
15 see right now and there's no room for buffers.
16 When we're talking about expanding a bridge,
17 where are you going to put the buffers? There's
18 nothing there right now. It's in your face, and
19 it's really unpleasant for a lot of us that live
20 down here. Thank you.

21 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Brines.
22 Our next speaker is Mr. Lamarr Williams who will

1 be followed by Ms. Lauren Thomas.

2 MR. WILLIAM: It's always an honor to
3 speak in the house of the Lord. My name is
4 Lamarr Williams. I'm a Detroit resident. I'm a
5 regular volunteer with the Marcus Garvey Movement
6 and probably most importantly I'm a supporter of
7 this bridge project. Part of what we do as
8 volunteers is we fight crime. We help the police
9 do their job. We're fighting a losing battle
10 when people in the communities don't have jobs.
11 So we need these jobs and we need these jobs now.
12 We don't need a long drawn out process.

13 I too have concerns about people in
14 the surrounding community, and I give my support
15 with the understanding that the tests have been
16 done on the air and they have been done on the
17 soil and that the people are being told the
18 truth. On those basis, I give my support. We
19 need the jobs. Let's get this permit approved.

20 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Williams.
21 Our next speaker will be Ms. Lauren Thomas
22 followed by Mr. Tim Kethman.

1 MS. THOMAS: Thank you so much for
2 having us; to the Coast Guard. It was less than
3 a month ago not very far from where we are right
4 now there were over a thousand residents
5 concerned about the emissions of the air from the
6 Marathon Oil Refinery. And once again we have
7 residents from the City of Detroit, black and
8 brown, and not very rich people, begging for our
9 own humanity saying to the powers that be please
10 consider the air that we are breathing; that our
11 children are breathing. It is more than just oh
12 a nice shiny new bridge.

13 We have such a beautiful, beautiful
14 riverfront and there is so much potential with it
15 even more, but the citizens of the City deserve
16 to have a quality of life that matches the beauty
17 of the riverfront. We do have a bridge that is
18 coming; that they already talked about jobs and
19 things. We do have to consider who we are
20 talking about; a couple other people have
21 mentioned that before.

22 Why should we continue to allow rules

1 to be bent for a company that has disregarded the
2 extended needs of the citizens of Detroit? The
3 bridge company is the largest blight offender in
4 the City of Detroit. And it is not just this
5 neighborhood. You can look--there's a map. You
6 can find--you can look at properties on the east
7 side of Detroit and other parts of the west side
8 of Detroit that are dilapidated and blighted. And
9 what do they do? Do they go fix it? Do they hire
10 us to go demolish it? Do they use those billions
11 of dollars that they're so eagerly and so
12 generously wanting to use for this bridge? Are
13 they employing us to take care of those? No. What
14 do they do? They get a blight ticket. They pay
15 it off. That's what they do.

16 Oh, and they've got one of the largest
17 buildings in the country and they add Wallside
18 Windows and we're supposed to line up and be
19 excited about that? This is who we're dealing
20 with, and we do have to consider that all money
21 is not good money, and we have to remember that.
22 We have to remember the damage that this company

1 has done. We can talk about Riverside Park and
2 we can talk about what happened to Riverside
3 Park? What was there before? Who shut down
4 Riverside Park? Can we talk about that? Because
5 this is the same company. We have to look at
6 that.

7 We cannot just say oh a new bridge and
8 new jobs, no. Who is it that's so generously
9 going to supposedly give us this when they
10 haven't been doing that? They haven't been taking
11 care the of bridge that's there now. Why should
12 we believe--who would trust that? Since when do
13 we trust billionaires over everything else? Since
14 when?

15 And, in terms of the full
16 environmental impact study, we do, I believe,
17 have to consider the neighborhood that we are in.
18 This part of Detroit is a very neglected part of
19 Detroit along with, like we talked about, the
20 Marathon Refinery. And we have to consider the
21 full impact of the residents of this neighborhood
22 and the entire City. Thank you so much.

1 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Thomas.

2 Our next speaker is Tim Kethman who will be

3 followed by Mr. Thomas Dombroski.

4 MR. KETHMAN: I'm against the bridge.

5 I'm against the bridge. Where do you think all

6 those jobs are going to come? You think Manuel

7 Moroun is gonna give you a job? Manuel Moroun

8 ain't gonna give you no job. He's letting the

9 bridge fall apart that he owns right now. He

10 spent thirty million dollars on misinformation

11 telling people they are going to get condemned

12 out of their houses. Bull; bull. All right. I'm

13 against the twin span. I'm for the Gordie Howe

14 Bridge.

15 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Kethman.

16 Our next speaker will be Mr. Thomas Dombroski

17 followed by Ms. Vanessa Moss.

18 MR. DOMBROSKI: Thank you for allowing

19 me to speak on this occasion. My name is Tom

20 Dombroski. I'm a resident--longtime resident of

21 Southwest Detroit. I would like to speak about

22 the twin Ambassador Bridge. There are some

1 present and not present but I would like to speak
2 about the twin Ambassador bridge that favor or
3 disagree with this expansion. I shall not dwell
4 on either position, but shall deal more with the
5 past exploits of DIBC that have been public,
6 verbal and orally. I have lost track of the
7 numerous lawsuits of alleged wrong or claims.

8 The second bridge issues being
9 constructed is not needed. These lawsuits have
10 been in either the Federal or State Court
11 including District Court in the City of Detroit.
12 One example is the claim that DIBC was a federal
13 instrumentality. Our Federal Government took
14 this bridge company to court for this. The end
15 result was DIBC lost its case. I could give
16 other court cases but time is limited and others
17 have to speak. So I shall give a small fact of
18 all of the various lawsuits brought by the bridge
19 company, the one loss ratio have been at a rate
20 of .083 percent.

21 Now I shall talk about the Gateway
22 Project. Here we have a company at MDOT as

1 contractual partners in the construction of a
2 project to enhance the ingress and egress between
3 Detroit and Windsor being the Ambassador Bridge.
4 The bridge company claimed that MDOT changed the
5 specifications of the original drawings. In that
6 contract they never presented any proof to
7 substantiate such claims then or now.

8 Two of the officers were sent to jail
9 for not obeying the Court ruling. The DIBC did
10 not comply; it's immaterial. In conclusion, I
11 want to ask this panel one question. If you will
12 take a wolf and put it into sheep's clothing what
13 do you have? Thank you and have a good day.

14 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr Dombroski.
15 Our next speaker is Vanessa Moss followed by Mr.
16 Phillip Greene.

17 MS. MOSS: Thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak today. I support the
19 building of the Ambassador Bridge. It will help
20 put hundreds of Detroiters to work and provide a
21 great economic boost to existing small business
22 in Southwest Detroit. In extensive testimony

1 researchers study over the course of several
2 months Mayor Duggan and an overwhelming majority
3 of the Detroit City Council voted in favor of
4 allowing land to be used for the construction of
5 the second span of the Ambassador Bridge.

6 The EPA approved the construction of
7 the second span of the Ambassador Bridge. The
8 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
9 approved the second span of the Ambassador
10 Bridge. And, their great expertise and wide
11 range of study, the U.S. Coast Guard scientists
12 and its leaders, determined that that second span
13 of the Ambassador Bridge qualified for an
14 environmental analysis; not an environmental
15 impact. The Coast Guard has completed the
16 environmental analyst. This project has been
17 held up long enough. Detroiters deserve to move
18 forward on this issue. Thank you.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Moss.
20 Our next speaker will be Mr. Robert Sterling
21 followed by Mr. Mike Hodge. After Mr. Hodge, as
22 we announced at the beginning of the meeting,

1 we're going to take a ten-minute recess. Is Mr.
2 Sterling here? I'm saying Sterling. It's hard to
3 read. Robert, I think it's Sterling. Speaker
4 51. Is Mr. Mike Hodge, Speaker Number 52? Is Mr.
5 Philip Greene here, Speaker 53. Based on the
6 time I think after Mr. Green we'll take that
7 recess.

8 MR. GREENE: Good evening. My name is
9 Philip Greene. When I came here in the front
10 door they had these pages out there in the front.
11 On the top it says United States Coast Guard Fact
12 Sheet. But I keep hearing everybody saying
13 something about an environmental analysis. I
14 think this fact sheet says there was an
15 environmental analysis in 2009, 2012 and again in
16 2016. I mean, what more can we ask for from the
17 United States Coast Guard. I think this bridge
18 that I'm in support of would definitely bring
19 jobs to the City of Detroit; jobs that are well
20 needed. We know we need jobs. I don't know
21 anybody that's working for the Canadian Bridge.

22 I heard somebody talk to me about,

1 that came up here to this mic, and said that it's
2 compared the situation to that of Flint, and then
3 yet and still they supported the same guy that's
4 responsible for the situation in Flint with this
5 other bridge. So I don't know what's going on,
6 and I don't know what ya'll thinking about, but I
7 definitely support this new expansion of this
8 bridge.

9 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Green.

10 So what we're going to do now is take a
11 ten-minute recess. When we return at
12 approximately 7:10 we'll start back up with Ms.
13 Christine Jenson.

14 (Off the record at 6:58 p.m.)

15 (Back on the record at 7:11 p.m.)

16 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you. If I could
17 have Ms. Christine Jenson please approach the
18 microphone. She will be followed by Ms. Janice
19 Walker. As we start back up I'd like to remind
20 everybody that if you choose to you can also
21 still submit written comments at the back. We
22 have written comment sheets at the back table. If

1 you're following along by numbers by any chance,
2 we have had people pull out because of how far
3 they still had to wait and so I just wanted to
4 put that out there. Do we have Ms. Jenson here?
5 And then Janice Walker, Speaker Number 54,
6 followed by Speaker Number 55. I'll give a
7 moment. Okay. Next speaker is Ms. Janice
8 Walker. Also not present. We'll start with Ms.
9 Mary Minock.

10 MS. MINOCK: Good evening. My name is
11 Mary Minock. Some of what I am going to say is
12 redundant. First of all, I wasn't paid 75
13 dollars to be here and I wasn't bussed in. I
14 grew up on Clark Street. I grew up on Clark
15 Street. I can see the Ambassador Bridge sign
16 every morning of my life, every evening of my
17 life. And now I am living two blocks from the
18 entrance to the Ambassador Bridge and two blocks
19 from Riverside Park.

20 I am old enough to remember the
21 Ambassador Bridge when it wasn't privately owned.
22 I'm not suggesting we go back to that time. We

1 can't. But I'm also old enough to not remember
2 the second thing I was going to say, so I'll
3 continue with the first thing. A lot of this has
4 been said and I'll just try to put it in my own
5 words. The Ambassador Bridge Company has a
6 horrible track record. They've done things--they
7 build--they buy up houses, they tear them down
8 and then say well there's no neighborhood here.
9 If you consider the difference between the
10 American side and the Canadian side where they
11 were not allowed to do that for a long time, we
12 have concrete, wall to wall concrete. We have
13 streets that have been blocked off for years. We
14 have strange turns; everything for the
15 convenience of the bridge company.

16 In Windsor they started the same
17 shenanigans and they now have boarded up houses
18 in Windsor but the City refused to have them torn
19 down. What they might do, because people are
20 saying these are boarded up houses, they should
21 come down. They are an eye sore. There's never
22 ever any consideration of what's fair. There's

1 never any consideration of trade. The last
2 trade--the trade that's happening right now. They
3 put fake windows in the train station. Those are
4 supposed to be pane windows. Every other
5 historic building has to have pane windows. They
6 just have strip on's but they get away with it.
7 I think that those of us who live close really
8 are very weary of that.

9 I remember my second point. I'm also
10 old enough to remember Riverside Park also known
11 as the Boulevard Dock where there were flower
12 beds all over the place; where it was a wonderful
13 place where everybody in the neighborhood went
14 down there when it was hot in the summer and they
15 had the ice cream truck and all that. I have
16 never seen the bridge do anything to encourage
17 that kind of community involvement. So I'm weary
18 and I do not support the second span.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Minock.
20 I want to apologize on this name Veronica
21 Caceres. Veronica Caceres, Speaker 57. She'll be
22 followed by Mr. Joe Rashid.

1 MS. CACERES: Good afternoon. My name
2 is Veronica Caceres. I am the president of the
3 Hispanic United Spanish Workers of Detroit. We
4 are here to represent the members of our
5 community; Hispanic working community. We are in
6 position to thank you to give us the opportunity
7 to express our opposition and we are against the
8 permit for building of the bridge. We work in
9 our sector of safety and health. We see ten
10 percent of the jobs that the bridge will bring to
11 Detroit. It's nothing compared to the impact
12 that it's going to have in the community, the
13 negative impact, because according to the studies
14 that were done in the university, Detroit is one
15 of the most polluted cities in the country.

16 There's too much pollution, too much
17 contamination. Americans, we lose income. I
18 don't know how the process will work. The
19 Hispanic community is one of the most vulnerable
20 ones. Many Hispanic workers died because of
21 health problems. The trucks will rise the
22 chemicals in the environment that already sits

1 there. I am a mother and my children have been
2 involved in many programs.

3 I don't think that building of the
4 bridge is a positive thing for the community for
5 the negative impact it will have on the
6 community. People have to take the opportunity
7 that they have to do deeper study of the good
8 things for the community. Because I don't think
9 the bridge will be the best for the community.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Caceres.
12 Our next speaker will be Mr. Joe Rashid followed
13 by Mr. Greg Ward.

14 MR. RASHID: Hi, good evening. Thank
15 you U.S. Coast Guard for being here and hosting
16 us tonight. My name is Joe Rashid and I'm a
17 lifelong resident of the City of Detroit. We
18 need a full environmental statement done for this
19 bridge. We have some of the worst air quality in
20 the State here in the City of Detroit and
21 especially here in Southwest Detroit and we need
22 that full environmental impact study done. The

1 DIBC has not been a good corporate citizen.
2 They've destroyed entire communities and have
3 closed Riverside Park for the better part of the
4 last 15 years and falsely put up signs stating
5 that it was due to in the name of homeland
6 security.

7 The reality is the DNR and the
8 National Park Service has to approve the land
9 before they can even build a bridge and that
10 hasn't been done yet. So this conversation
11 should be had at a later date when they've gotten
12 the proper approvals that they need to actually
13 build the second span. Until then this is a moot
14 conversation. Thank you.

15 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Rashid.
16 Our next speaker will be Mr. Greg Ward followed
17 by Mr. DeMarcus Taylor.

18 MR. WARD: Thank you very much for
19 coming here. I've actually been working with the
20 Coast Guard for the last 25 years. I operate a
21 small maritime operation. And the thing I'm
22 encouraged before Coast Guard today is that the

1 Coast Guard always has rules and follow rules.
2 You regularly inspect and always carry your rule
3 book. I'm happy to see the guys here because
4 it's what you guys do and you do so well. In the
5 Abeyance Letter from 2009 you specifically quote
6 33 CFR 115.15 which states a special care will be
7 taken if Federal approval is not granted when
8 there is doubt that there is the right to build
9 and utilize the bridge.

10 To be able to construct the Ambassador
11 Bridge twin span, which will result in a ten-lane
12 bridge crossing the Detroit River, the bridge
13 company must have a legal right to build the
14 bridge and maintain air rights on public property
15 known as Riverside Park. This is being addressed
16 supposedly between the City of Detroit and the
17 Detroit International Bridge Company. This will
18 require approval of the National Park Service and
19 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to
20 use Riverside Park for non-recreational purposes.

21 The approval of the conversion is not
22 guaranteed and this should give you doubt there

1 is a current right of the building to construct
2 the bridge. The DNR in fact has already stated
3 in a letter to the U.S. Coast Guard that they are
4 quote not likely to approve the conversion. This
5 should give you doubt of the current right of the
6 builder to construct and utilize the bridge. The
7 approval process can take years to be granted and
8 many things can occur to change the proposed
9 project during that time delay. This should give
10 you doubt that the current--of the current right
11 of the builder to construct and utilize the
12 bridge.

13 A critical component of the land
14 change agreement between Detroit and the bridge
15 company is to exchange of land to replace
16 Riverside Park. In the conversion process the
17 City must prove to the National Park Service and
18 the DNR that the land being exchanged is of equal
19 value to Riverside or better. The land proposed
20 in this exchange is currently occupied under
21 lease. It's the Detroit News Warehouse property.
22 This property is currently under lease until July

1 31, 2018. It is not known if the current lessor
2 will surrender the property on July 31, 2018.

3 The timeline for the demolition work
4 on the Detroit News Warehouse site is 120 days
5 from when the lease ends on July 31, 2018; or
6 more specifically, the demolition worker will
7 probably start on November 28th of 2018; that's
8 two and a half years from now. The land exchange
9 agreement specifically gives the bridge company
10 additional time before the start of the
11 demolition process anticipating the potential
12 need to evict tenant. This should give you doubt
13 that the current right of the building to
14 construct and utilize the bridge. On the
15 demolition--okay. Well, I will submit the rest
16 of my comments.

17 But the point is that they do not own
18 the land. There's a lot of questions. Will they
19 be able to acquire the land; and therefore, 33
20 CFR 115.15 should rule the decision. Thank you.

21 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Ward.

22 The next speaker will be Mr. DeMarcus Taylor

1 followed by Kamari McHenry.

2 MR. TAYLOR: Before I start to speak
3 I have to thank God for being in his house just
4 another day. I would like to start by saying
5 that I do approve and I do support the bridge
6 being made and I support it for many years. I
7 understand everybody talking about the air
8 quality and everything. But what you have to
9 understand that once those trucks come across,
10 and like it says in the fact sheets, they are all
11 on one platform, which means no matter what you
12 have to say, another bridge being put in place
13 will make it quicker. If you want to prevent all
14 these diseases that everyone's talking about and
15 the cancer and everything, then let this bridge
16 come into place. Let us build this bridge. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Taylor.
19 Our next speaker Mr. Kamari McHenry followed by
20 Mr. Steve Tobocman.

21 MR. MCHENRY: I just want to say give
22 Honor to God who is the head of my life. I just

1 want to say I am in support of the second span of
2 the Ambassador Bridge because the jobs it will
3 bring to the City. And also the attention the
4 City will get because of the bridge. I also
5 support the bridge because Detroit is on the come
6 back and I want this bridge to be a major part of
7 this come back. I say let's do this and let's
8 make the bridge.

9 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. McHenry.
10 Next speaker will be Mr. Steve Tobocman.

11 MR. TOBOCMAN: Good evening. My name
12 is Steve Tobocman. I've been a homeowner about
13 two blocks away from the Ambassador Bridge for 15
14 years. I was the State Representative. I'm a
15 recovering politician. One of the reasons I'm
16 recovering is from the really bad governance
17 we've had around our transportation
18 infrastructure and border issues. And, frankly,
19 the fact that we're sitting today I think is
20 evidence of more than public policy.

21 I would urge you to treat your job
22 seriously about the things you have to review on

1 here. I'm not clear but this is not a zoning
2 hearing for just opening up a restaurant or a
3 commercial establishment. We're talking about
4 the world's most valuable border cross. We're
5 talking about construction that could impact a
6 major navigable waterway that has deep
7 environmental implications should there be
8 mistakes and there are drops in the river;
9 hazardous wastes, et cetera.

10 And to think we're processing a permit
11 today, that these two children weren't even born
12 the last time we had a hearing--and I hope they
13 look at the over four hundred comments that were
14 made the last time we had a public hearing on
15 this exact permit. We've had officials leave
16 your office at the Coast Guard to go work for the
17 applicant here. We've had lawsuits filed and the
18 fact that you could possibly process something in
19 2016 based on traffic studies that's almost a
20 decade old, based on the Ambassador Gateway
21 Project.

22 This isn't about people who we like,

1 who we don't like. I supported the Gateway
2 Project. It was a project that this applicant had
3 to go to jail for to complete their end of the
4 bargain. And for you not to restart this process
5 and not to conduct a full environmental impact
6 statement under NEMA, and for this project to be
7 divided over a decade of different environmental
8 hearings and processes to rely upon the Gateway
9 Project; to rely on issues that are over--that
10 are seven years old to make your decisions today,
11 I don't see how you can do that.

12 Moreover, this is an applicant that
13 does not today cannot build this project under
14 the law; does not have the right to the property.
15 This is why we're sitting here eight years later
16 processing this is; is because he didn't have the
17 right then. This is their fault that we're
18 sitting here in 2016 talking about this; not
19 yours. And until they have that right I don't
20 know why we're processing this. There's been
21 litigation filed and there are a myriad of
22 allegations around this.

1 I hope and pray that you look at all
2 the comments that were filed at the last public
3 hearing at the last round of this. I know the
4 decision was made because they didn't own the
5 property to stop the process then. But a lot of
6 time is spent--we spend a lot of time talking
7 about the segmentation, which is a violation of
8 Federal Law to take a project like this and have
9 multiple different processes each considered in
10 part rather than the whole considered all
11 together. And that is what's happened here and
12 that's a perversion of our environmental laws.
13 That's a perversion of the American process. It's
14 a perversion of due process to this community and
15 I hope you will do your job and order a full
16 environmental with all the facts at one time
17 based on current evidence.

18 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Tobocman.
19 Our next speaker will be Mr. Jon Miller followed
20 by Mr. Vic Abla.

21 MR. MILLER: Well, I sure hate to have
22 to follow that. That was beautiful. My name is

1 Jon Miller. I live in the neighborhood
2 immediately adjacent to the current bridge and
3 almost in what would be the footprint of the
4 proposed bridge. I want to strongly urge you to
5 reject this permit for three reasons.

6 The first--most of these have already
7 been spoken to so forgive me. The first is that
8 the current bridge is a substantial contributor
9 to all kinds of environmental impacts on the
10 residents of the neighborhood in terms of air
11 pollution, noise, dirt, congestion; and those
12 will be increased by an order of magnitude if
13 this new bridge is put in place. Partly because
14 of the increase in traffic and partly because of
15 the positioning it will bring closer to the
16 existing neighborhood.

17 The second thing is about Riverside
18 Park, this is our only existing access to the
19 waterfront on the west side beyond downtown. To
20 give residents of the City access to the river is
21 the only point to do that.

22 The third point is that there's

1 absolutely no public justification for this
2 project whatsoever. We have the Ambassador
3 Bridge. We're going to have the Gordie Howe
4 Bridge. The only rationale for this bridge, the
5 proposal existing, is to increase the profit--the
6 coffers of the Detroit International Bridge
7 company. And to approve this project for that
8 reason would be a violation of the rights of the
9 citizens of this City and our neighborhood. So I
10 urge you to reject this permit. Thank you.

11 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Miller.
12 Our next speaker is Mr. Vic Abla followed by Mr.
13 David Hannah.

14 MR. ABLA: Thank you. I also live in
15 the neighborhood even closer than the last two
16 speakers. I'm about a block from the bridge and
17 I urge you to turn down this permit. I developed
18 asthma some time since I moved into the
19 neighborhood and I can only imagine it's
20 attributable, at least in part, to the poor air
21 quality caused by all the truck traffic. I urge
22 you to do the full environmental impact

1 statement, as you've heard many times over
2 tonight, for the full effects of all the issues
3 in the neighborhood and the proposed as well as
4 existing industry.

5 I also have twin girls almost two
6 years old. I don't want them to have to deal
7 with this air quality issue growing up. I can't
8 imagine what it would be like to hear the words
9 they've been diagnosed with asthma and I urge you
10 to do the full environmental statement.

11 A lot of the supporters seemed to have
12 left early, I guess, but as they spoke about
13 proposed jobs, we want that too for the
14 neighborhood. If the bridge company was the
15 answer we would have had it many years ago; maybe
16 45, 50 years and you see what Fort Street looks
17 like. So yes we want jobs. We want economic
18 development too, but this is not going to bring
19 it.

20 Lastly, I also heard a lot of wasting
21 hours on this and as they don't have the legal
22 authority to have the right to the land yet. The

1 State Department of National Park Service still
2 has to weigh in. They're not going to because
3 there's nothing in front of them as far as I know
4 right now. So why are we here tonight? Why this
5 permit is being considered in this moment is
6 beyond me. But I implore you to do the full
7 environmental statement and to turn down this
8 permit. Thank you.

9 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Abla. The
10 next speaker will be Mr. David Hannah followed by
11 Mr. Paul Palazollo. Last call for Mr. Hannah.
12 Is Mr. Palazollo here? Last call for Mr. Pal
13 Palazollo. Next speaker, Angelo Brown. Mr.
14 Angelo Brown will be followed by Ms. Clara Deck.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Coast Guard,
16 for being here and the opportunity to speak and I
17 just pray my words be respectful. I love
18 America, my fellow Americans. I love the
19 democratic system that we have and through that
20 we can have capitalists, which have dreams. The
21 American dreams comes from capitalists; people
22 who are able to get jobs, businesses and

1 accomplish things. That's our American dream.

2 I was thinking if King Solomon was
3 here, you know, you'd have to split this; maybe
4 he would split it and say well have both bridges.
5 You know, split it in half. I'm concerned about
6 Americans who are working with another country to
7 stop Americans from doing things. I love
8 everybody. I love Canada.

9 If you want to talk about people doing
10 wrong you can talk about Governor Granholm and
11 when they were bringing that contamination stuff
12 over here burying it and we had to deal with
13 that. We can talk about the last time we had a
14 falling out with Canada they burned down our
15 capitol and that was back in the great old days
16 or something; back when you had forests. They
17 still say we stole Detroit from them. But I'm
18 concerned--and if we're going to be partners
19 let's really be partners; half and half. I would
20 love that. Half and half; we own half, they own
21 half. We get half of the revenue; they get half.
22 But don't tell us fifty to forty years we can buy

1 in and say free, free, free.

2 Now, every word about pollution; you
3 know, sounds like somebody is saying there's a
4 guy smoking on the right side and we'd rather
5 have one smoking on the left side. Get rid of
6 the bridge. It would be funny if you guys got
7 rid of all of the bridges and then we could
8 breathe so good then. It's like we're favoring
9 this side and favoring that side, but we do have
10 to--if it comes down to money who is going to pay
11 taxes? You know, that's a part of owning things
12 in America. You pay taxes. You create jobs. But
13 who is going to pay the most taxes to this side
14 here? You know, who has been creating jobs, you
15 know. We want to bring it right down to the
16 nickels and dimes.

17 But we've got to be respectful and
18 love one another. And when we want to talk about
19 partnership, it's got to be equal. Fifty to
20 forty years we get to buy in? That doesn't sound,
21 you know. We want this international--this joint
22 venture. Let's really have it be half and half

1 or let's just keep things the way they are or
2 maybe even get rid of all the bridges except for
3 Belle Isle where we can ride by and enjoy the
4 park but let's be fair. So thanks for the
5 opportunity to be here and I hope we can continue
6 to respect one another and love one another and
7 not be so mean to each other and be fair.

8 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

9 Our next speaker will be Ms. Clara Deck followed
10 by LaTanya and I'm not sure if it's Martin or St.
11 Martin.

12 MS. DECK: Hi, thanks for letting me
13 speak today. I wasn't going to talk tonight. I'm
14 a neighbor from about a mile away across the
15 river. So I lived in Windsor. I work over here.
16 I pay taxes here so I have a right to speak
17 tonight. What I really want to do is counteract
18 some of the speaking points that were brought up
19 earlier that we need a world class bridge. We
20 have a world class bridge that the current owners
21 are failing to restore and failing to maintain on
22 a daily basis. Come to Windsor, see all the

1 properties that the bridge company owns in
2 Windsor; see the derelict properties the that
3 they own across our city as well as yours. They
4 are bad corporate citizen on both sides of the
5 border and they should not be supported in this.

6 People talk about that it's 90 years
7 old and it needs to be replaced. How old is the
8 Golden Gate Bridge? How well maintained is that?
9 That is a world class structure if I ever saw
10 one. They can make this Ambassador Bridge world
11 class.

12 So, again, everybody has already
13 spoken and I thank all the proponents--all the
14 opponents, that is, who have spoken much more
15 eloquently than I can. I just want to say that I
16 do not support this and I hope that you do the
17 full environmental impact rather than cut corners
18 and--yeah, thank you.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you. Our next
20 speaker will be Ms. LaTanya Martin followed by
21 Maria Cabrera.

22 MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Coast Guard,

1 for giving me the opportunity to speak to you
2 guys tonight. I'm quite sure you're tired and
3 ready to get home to your families. It has been
4 a long day, I guess. I've been waiting here
5 diligently to speak. You know, I don't really
6 want to piggy back off of anything that anybody
7 says tonight; that's not what I'm here for. I'm
8 simply here for you guys to approve the permit.

9 We want to talk about abandoned and
10 blight in the City of Detroit. Snyder has taken
11 care of that. Snyder has shut down the Detroit
12 Public Schools. He has taken the right away from
13 the elected school board to do their job. It's
14 so much stuff that's going on in this City and in
15 this State. There are more things to be
16 concerned about than somebody trying to get a
17 permit to build a bridge. What's wrong with
18 building a bridge? You guys have already approved
19 it. You approved it already. How much longer is
20 it going to take? Is it going to take 20 more
21 years, 40 more years, 60 more years? We need to
22 get it down and we need to get it done now. We

1 need jobs.

2 You know what, the crime rate, since
3 Chief Craig has been in office, the crime rate
4 has went down a little. Duggan is starting the
5 Summer Youth Program. I'm 51 years old. My
6 first job was a Summer Youth Program. I was 14.
7 That's a good thing that he's starting the Summer
8 Youth Program again, but we also need more jobs
9 in this City. The reason that these
10 neighborhoods are the way they are is because of
11 what Snyder has done. People don't want to live
12 in neighborhoods that's blight. People don't
13 want to send their kids to school three and four
14 and five miles away because there's no one living
15 in the neighborhood. There's no one there. So
16 we're here tonight because we want you guys to
17 issue the permit. Thank you.

18 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Martin.
19 Our next speaker will be Ms. Maria Cabrea
20 followed by Ms. Sally Kim.

21 MS. CABREA: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Maria Cabrea. I am a member representing the

1 Union of Hispanic Workers of Detroit. I am not
2 in favor of the building of the bridge. My
3 reason is this. Nobody guarantees a hundred
4 percent that we're going to have enough jobs. But
5 they do guarantee that there's going to be too
6 much pollution and too much traffic. We don't
7 need more pollution that we already have for the
8 factory. We don't need any more children sick
9 with asthma.

10 I have worked for four years in DPS
11 and we are finding because they are taking away
12 our schools we don't need any more sick children
13 missing school. I want to ask a question. Why
14 do they have to affect the Hispanic community?
15 Why do they have to affect the poorest community?
16 Why they don't build the bridge where the cities
17 with more money are? It's not racism but why they
18 don't build the bridge where the white people
19 are?

20 In the school where I work, Pierce
21 Elementary School, it is a multi-cultural
22 community. I love working there. Hispanics,

1 Blacks, Arabics are from different cultures, but
2 we have children with asthma that couldn't attend
3 their studies. I thank you for your attention,
4 but I remind you that the children are the future
5 of Detroit and the future of our nation.

6 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Cabrea.
7 Our next speaker will be Ms. Sally Kim followed
8 by Mr. Vincent Martin.

9 MS. KIM: Hi, my name is Sally Kim.
10 I'm a resident here. I live a few blocks away.
11 A couple years ago I almost got killed by a
12 semi-truck a few minutes away from my house.
13 Didn't even see me, swiped me off the side of the
14 road. I couldn't move half of my body. I had no
15 insurance so I didn't go to the hospital. I'm
16 very concerned about the increase in traffic and
17 semi-trucks in this area if the second span is
18 built. There are a lot of children in this
19 community.

20 Up to 150 percent more bridge crossing
21 capacity might happen if the second span is
22 built; three million more vehicles. That's a lot

1 of vehicles, including semi-trucks. I think
2 that's a danger and a public safety issue for
3 this community. But also, as Maria and a lot of
4 other people have been talking about is an
5 environmental issue. Three million more vehicles
6 in a year every year. What is that going to do
7 to the quality of air in this community? We don't
8 know because there's not a full environmental
9 impact study. Why don't you guys do a full
10 environmental impact study. There's a lot of
11 speculation about what might happen in this area
12 with air pollution and other issues.

13 It's suspicious to me, though, why we
14 don't have a full environmental impact study. It
15 says to me what are you afraid of finding out or
16 what are you afraid of validating about the
17 residents of this area that have been saying all
18 of this stuff about the air pollution, about the
19 quality of life, about public safety and all of
20 that. I think that's going to be validated and
21 that is why you guys need to do that. You need
22 to tell us no you guys are afraid of things that

1 aren't going to happen or yes this is what it
2 says is going to happen.

3 The other thing a lot of people have
4 been saying is why is it this community in
5 particular? We're already suffering from the
6 worst pollution in the State of Michigan? 48217
7 ZIP Code, 48216 ZIP code, who has the highest
8 rate of kids with persistent asthma rates in
9 Michigan. I live in 48219, which is close by and
10 you can't contain pollution in certain ZIP codes;
11 it spreads.

12 The other thing is I think this is a
13 matter of environmental racism when you keep
14 putting these kinds of issues on poor
15 communities. Why does it have to go again to
16 this community that faces all these environmental
17 issues already and industrial pollution? Why this
18 community? Why one of the poor neighborhoods? Why
19 does it seem like the communities that are poor
20 and communities of color have to fight against
21 scraps? And people here are saying oh we want
22 jobs. This is going to give us jobs. It's not

1 good jobs; it's crappy jobs.

2 This community is saying we don't want
3 this. It's going to poison our children. The
4 biggest problem here, in my opinion, is not that
5 we're talking about possibly temporary or a few
6 jobs. It's a lack of investment in communities
7 of color in the City in general and it's
8 intentional. There's a much broader issue than
9 this bridge and this bridge is not going to solve
10 it. So, in my opinion, we need jobs but we need
11 good jobs and we have to invest in the
12 communities of color and do it intentionally.

13 So anyway, the other thing I have to
14 say is I'm concerned about the potential
15 long-term impact of border patrol and immigration
16 in this area with an additional six-lane bridge.
17 Are we going to see more agents? Is there going
18 to be more harassment in this community? There
19 already is a lot of harassment. Citizens get
20 pulled over all the time. That's a thing I'd
21 like to have answered. So I'd like an
22 environmental impact study. I would encourage

1 that.

2 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Kim. The
3 next speaker is Mr. Martin followed by Mr. Joe
4 Wadrick.

5 MR. MARTIN: Good evening. Well,
6 thank you to the Coast Guard for coming down
7 here. I need to bring your attention to
8 Executive Order 12898, which is signed in 1994 by
9 President Clinton and was affirmed two years ago
10 by President Obama that was signed by 17 Federal
11 agencies to acknowledge environmental justice for
12 poor minority impact communities, which this is.

13 I'm here to speak for the children;
14 the kids that are sitting at home barely able to
15 breathe. You sitting around here for the sake of
16 greed making these decisions for a community. I
17 don't see any of ya'll representing this
18 community. I see white faces that's going to
19 make this decision on a community that's full of
20 us. Look at all this rainbow color out here.
21 It's deplorable what's going on in this
22 community. This is our third hearing. We got

1 another one next week for AK Steel. We've got
2 enough pollution here not to add more. It's
3 horrible. What's going on here, this is a Title
4 6 violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And
5 believe you me, I'm getting together with some
6 agencies right now to bring action; enough talk.

7 We're tired of getting picked on,
8 because every time it's time to do some kind of
9 investment to put this money in these rich
10 people's hands it is always this community that's
11 sacrificed. We're tired of being sacrificed.

12 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
13 Our next speaker will be Mr. Joe Wadrick followed
14 by Ms. Kim Hunter.

15 MR. WADRICK: The only thing I have to
16 say is we don't need the bridge. You're just
17 taking pollution from one area and putting it in
18 another. Let Manuel Moroun build his own bridge.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Wadrick.
20 Our next speaker Mr. Kim Hunter who will be
21 followed by Mr. Denzel McCapbell.

22 MR. HUNTER: Good evening. My name is

1 Kim Hunter. I've lived in Detroit all my life.
2 I'm a Southwest Detroit resident. I was born in
3 the Black part of Southwest Detroit. I've been
4 living in the Hispanic part of Southwest Detroit
5 for about 25 years now. Do a full EIS, please,
6 on this. Do a full environmental impact study.
7 Virtually no one--we should have a rule that says
8 you cannot be paid to come up and screw up
9 somebody else's environment to give false
10 testimony. Do a full EIS.

11 Virtually no one speaking on behalf of
12 this bridge lives in Southwest Detroit. They've
13 been paid. No one speaking on behalf of this
14 bridge has a child that has asthma like I do. I
15 sat up nights with my daughter. She woke up
16 hacking and coughing and I was sitting up nights
17 with her in the bathroom turning on the steam and
18 losing sleep day after day after day. I sit with
19 her hour after hour with a nebulizer. You know
20 what a nebulizer is? You put it on a child's face
21 so they can breathe and don't have to cough and
22 hack their way through the school day.

1 This is an actual travesty. We don't
2 need jobs that cost children their lives. We
3 don't need jobs that cost children their lungs.
4 We don't need that. That's selling your soul to
5 the devil. I take it personal. I take it real
6 personal. We have two bridges. We will have two
7 bridges. That's going to be at least twice the
8 traffic. And even if the trucks are moving they
9 still put particulate matter in the air. It
10 doesn't matter if they're standing there or not.
11 If they're moving it's called a mobile form of
12 pollution. Check it out.

13 The bridge company is one of the worst
14 corporate citizens in the whole country. They
15 have devastated this neighborhood; yes, they
16 have. I've seen the devastation just in the 25
17 years or so I've been here. They are horrible
18 corporate citizens. They cannot be trusted.
19 Check out a Forbes article called the Troll Under
20 the Bridge. Forbes Magazine calling them out;
21 not exactly a radical socialist organization and
22 they're telling you these folks cannot be

1 trusted.

2 I urge you to make a full
3 environmental impact statement. If we need EPA
4 Regulations to save children's lives we've got a
5 bigger problem than a second span.

6 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Hunter.
7 Our next speaker will be Mr. Denzel McCampbell
8 followed by Kerry O'Conner.

9 MR. MCCAMPBELL: Hello. Good evening.
10 Thank you all for being here. My name is Denzell
11 McCampbell. I'm a lifelong citizen of Detroit.
12 It's only been 24 years but lifelong citizen. I'm
13 here to be a true ally to the community. Unlike
14 some folks who came in to say they support the
15 bridge; more pollution in the area. There's some
16 things that have been said, some pie in the sky,
17 that jobs will come here, that crime will go away
18 if there's a second span. But one thing we know
19 for sure is that there's always a bridge coming
20 here.

21 There's a public bridge, an emphasis
22 on public bridge that's coming here. There's

1 jobs that are already coming, and my question is
2 how many international bridge crossings does the
3 community need? How much can residents take with
4 regards to the deterioration of their environment
5 and or health? I'm opposed to the second span but
6 I urge you all to not make the decision to the
7 DNR gives the DIBC approval to use the Riverside
8 Park.

9 Also, and above all, in the name of
10 residents here today and those who will come
11 tomorrow and generations down the line, do not
12 act on this without an environmental impact study
13 conducted on the second span. People here have a
14 right to clean air. Act in the interest of
15 people and do your due diligence and reject the
16 permit for a second span. Thank you.

17 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr.
18 McCampbell. Our next speaker will be Mr. Kerry
19 O'Connor followed by Kathryn Savoie.

20 MR. OCONNOR: My name is Kerry
21 O'Connor. I live in Southwest Detroit. I run
22 about ten miles a week on Fort Street. Anything

1 that involves Manuel Moroun I would encourage
2 people to get it in writing. He says that he's
3 going to take the old bridge off line. You're
4 the Coast Guard. Make him put money in an escrow
5 account to take the bridge down. Because if you
6 look at the Railway Train Station, basically put
7 the lipstick on the pig. He put some cheap
8 windows in. There's no way in the world that
9 building would ever pass the building inspection.

10 So, if you look at what he's doing,
11 you're on the hook for the safety of the people
12 on that river. So I'd encourage you to think
13 about that. Taking down that bridge may give
14 some people some jobs. I would encourage you to
15 make Manuel Moroun tell you how many jobs he is
16 going to give people in Detroit in writing.
17 Because if you don't get it in writing he's not
18 giving you the jobs. You think he's going to
19 watch out for you? People that build those
20 bridges--he doesn't need anybody in Detroit. If
21 you don't get it in writing it's not going to
22 happen. Thank you very much.

1 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. O'Connor.
2 Our next speaker will be Ms. Kathryn Savoie
3 followed by Mr. Robert Thibodeau.

4 MS. SAVOIE: Good evening. My name is
5 Kathryn Savoie. I'm a resident of Southwest
6 Detroit. I live just a few blocks from the
7 border crossing the bridge and I've been in the
8 City for, in this neighborhood, for 26 years. And
9 in that time I have seen whole blocks of housing
10 stock be lost to the bridge company. It's the
11 biggest force of blight in our neighborhood and
12 it's a really destructive--a destructive force.

13 And, the people who mentioned it, this
14 is a company that is not to be trusted. It's not
15 a positive force. It's not in any way benefiting
16 us and we don't trust that. I think it's wrong
17 if we just allow them to do this project. The
18 trucks are a problem. The air pollution is a
19 problem. There's a lot of problems we see coming
20 with an expanded bridge.

21 Again, somebody mentioned it's moving
22 closer to the neighborhood; the new footprint.

1 But I want to tell you also that I am the parent
2 of a child. I know what it's like to be told
3 your child has asthma. And I know what it's like
4 to lose sleep and to spend millions--I mean, not
5 millions but nights and nights in the ER and
6 having a daughter who is sick; and a nebulizer.
7 And it is really hurtful to hear people who sit
8 here and live in other neighborhoods who are paid
9 to come here, say that the bridge is the answer
10 to that problem. That the bridge is going to
11 solve our problems; that the answer to asthma for
12 our kids is to increase the size of half this
13 bridge. It's absurd and it's hurtful.

14 And it's really hurtful to have
15 people, who because they come and they eat in a
16 restaurant in our neighborhood, feel they can
17 come and shove this down our throats. We have to
18 live with this because you think it's going to
19 get a job. We all need jobs. It's really a
20 problem right now. We all need jobs. But it
21 should not come at the expense of our children.
22 I'm talking to you. And I wanted to say if it

1 was other people's neighborhoods we should
2 protect each other.

3 I'm looking to you to do your job as
4 the Coast Guard. We want you to protect public
5 health. We can't depend much. It's really hard
6 to have faith in our elected officials and
7 Government agencies with what Snyder has done. We
8 are looking for somebody who will stand up for us
9 and protect our health. I want to cite from the
10 Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice for
11 Low Income Minorities Communities 1994 passed by
12 President Clinton. This Federal Executive Order
13 directs Federal agencies to make achieving
14 environmental justice, and look that up what it
15 means.

16 Part of its mission is identifying
17 disproportionately high adverse human health
18 impacts of the environment on minority and low
19 income communities. So I urge you not only to do
20 a full EIS; I urge you to go beyond that and
21 protect your mission to do a health assessment;
22 not just an environmental impact statement but a

1 health assessment on our health. Thank you very
2 much.

3 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Savoie.
4 Our next speaker will be Mr. Robert Thibodeau
5 followed by Ilona Varga.

6 MR. THIBODEAU: Hello. My name is
7 Robert Thibodeau. I've been a resident of
8 Detroit since 1972. And I bring that to your
9 attention because in my first year at the
10 University of Windsor I lived on the 4th Floor of
11 Cody Hall and were woken up at 3 in the morning
12 with bridge traffic in the northwest corner. The
13 next year I lived at 781 Indian, the home of Mr.
14 McCay, and on the way to school every morning I
15 of course had to deal with a wall of traffic on
16 Huron Church Line; a wall of traffic that remains
17 to this day. And as we came down with my friend
18 down Fort Street sure enough there's a wall of
19 truck traffic across the Ambassador bridge now.

20 The Canadian Government, instead of
21 dealing with that traffic, first of all, on the
22 Canadian side, they decided that they would put a

1 new parkway to service a new bridge. This also
2 is a parkway that could be extended to the new
3 bridge so that they could reinvent the Huron
4 Church Line to be the major business thoroughfare
5 it should be.

6 Once again, same in Windsor as in
7 Detroit, when you shunt your traffic away from
8 your city don't be surprised when you lose
9 business that goes with it. Because we have
10 people that would like to shut the Ambassador
11 Bridge down because of all the pollution. Yes,
12 there is pollution, but there has been pollution
13 since the day it opened. A bridge that was built
14 in the best location possible between Canada and
15 Windsor; still the best location for a second
16 bridge.

17 The other bridge that is being,
18 supposed to still be built, and finances are
19 still not set on that, will bring the same amount
20 of pollution. And also, if you know anything
21 about pollution, the pollution that comes from
22 one of the world's largest industrial centers,

1 cannot be delineated between what the Ambassador
2 Bridge, produces most that.

3 So let us not stop blaming the Moroun
4 family and the Ambassador Bridge Company for all
5 of the issues with the Ambassador Bridge from the
6 past and the present and let's stop connecting it
7 to the train station as well. Because Canada is
8 our biggest trading partner. We need more
9 transportation between our two cities. We need
10 another Ambassador Bridge. We need another train
11 station near there. We should also have a
12 tramway to Windsor instead of these cities that
13 are building these fancy ferris wheels as the
14 latest urban trend. We could have these things
15 if we have that vision.

16 If you can tell me even after the EPA
17 study is done, if there is one, and I hope there
18 is one done; what percentage just comes from a
19 new Ambassador Bridge versus what comes from all
20 the largest industrial centers in the entire
21 complex or entire United States, it would be
22 worthwhile to know.

1 Also, with regard to the Ambassador
2 Bridge or even the Gordie Howe, I would hope that
3 they would consider moving houses in this City
4 rather than tearing them down. Remember, this is
5 a City that has had a policy, a preservation
6 policy, of the window is broken so tear it down.
7 So stop making many Manuel Moroun the boogie man
8 of preservationist issues, because remember, the
9 City of Detroit up until now has been the largest
10 landlord of disrespect of our architecture. So
11 now the mayor hopefully will work with the
12 Morouns.

13 And it is a Moroun company that is
14 changing of the guards just as they have the
15 changing of the guards. So we're not dealing
16 with Manuel Moroun to the degree we once were. So
17 I look forward to a change in that as well. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr.
20 Thibodeau. Our next speaker will be Ilona Varga
21 followed by Mr. Anthony Benavodes.

22 MS. VARGA: Good evening. My name is

1 Ilona Varga. I'm the Wayne County Commissioner
2 in this area. I moved into Detroit in 1970. I
3 lived here and I've seen the changes over the
4 years. I'm also a cancer survivor and I
5 contribute it to the environment and so do my
6 doctors. So, I implore you, if I didn't have a
7 house, a title to a house, I couldn't build. If
8 they don't have the clearance for the properties
9 why are we even sitting here tonight? It just
10 does not make sense to me listening for all of
11 this time here tonight that we're wasting your
12 time, our time and stress; and stress kills.

13 This community here, just because they
14 are the lowest income people, they are being
15 dumped on. Now, let me tell you. If you do this
16 now, if you issue this permit now you will stifle
17 all of the efforts that this community has gained
18 in the last few years. So you need to do the
19 environmental impact study today with the new
20 technology, because we at the Wayne County
21 Commission have a task force on environmental
22 quality doing work. And we have our Local, our

1 County, our State and our Federal Legislature all
2 working together, because for the first time we
3 have shown that we can't trust MBQ. We can't
4 trust EPA. So we legislatures are going to come
5 together and try to force them to make changes.

6 Wayne County is going to try to take
7 back the air quality from the State of Michigan
8 so we can serve our constituents better because
9 it will be local. It used to be that way many
10 years ago. So we're going back and we're
11 learning from our experience. So please, please,
12 I implore you, EPA. As I'm standing here I know
13 that they're going to do some real promulgation
14 on cumulative effect of air pollution. That is
15 the charge that our task force is giving them.
16 This is what our Federal Legislatures are joining
17 us to do. So please, please put this off until
18 all the I's are dotted and all the T's are
19 crossed. And, until they have a proper paperwork
20 for everything else, the owner should put the
21 properties in place and get the environmental
22 impact study done. Please don't hinder our

1 progress that we are about to make. Thank you.

2 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Ms. Varga.
3 Our next speaker Mr. Anthony Benavodes followed
4 by Christina Gusma.

5 MR. BENAVIDES: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to speak to you this evening. My
7 name is Anthony Benavodes. I live on West Grand
8 Boulevard about two blocks away from the bridge,
9 the current bridge, and the last thing we need
10 now is another--an additional bridge. So I
11 oppose the bridge project, put that on the
12 record.

13 Two, we also need an environmental
14 impact study. Also, the fact that there's so
15 much pollution in the air. I've been coaching
16 with the youth at Clark Park for over 20 years;
17 whether it be baseball, soccer, ice hockey, and
18 every year more and more kids are bringing
19 inhalers, bringing them to the bench, bringing
20 them to the playing field and it just increases
21 every year. That's the last thing the kids need
22 in our neighborhood. We have four schools in our

1 neighborhood. We have Earhart Jr. High School.
2 We have Maybury and Western High School and
3 they're all within a block, less than a mile, six
4 blocks from the bridge right now.

5 The last thing we need is another
6 bridge project. All these kids at all these
7 schools-- there's also Clippert. The last thing
8 they need, like I said, every year more and more
9 kids have asthma. So we need to figure out a way
10 to prevent this asthma epidemic that's coming up
11 in our neighborhood Southwest Detroit. The last
12 thing we need is another bridge right there.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you. The next
15 speaker Ms. Christina Gusma. She left. The next
16 speaker Mr. Adam Thibodeau. After Mr. Thibodeau,
17 I believe, this will be Mr. Carl Aye, A-Y-E.

18 MR. THIBODEAU: Hello. My name is
19 Adam Thibodeau. I'm a community organizer in
20 Southwest Detroit and I'm an ally also. I live
21 on the eastside of Detroit. I do not support the
22 building of a second bridge by the Ambassador

1 Company for numerous reasons. One, we need to do
2 an updated environmental study. We can't use one
3 that is so old.

4 The second reason is we need to start
5 doing this environmental study after the EA and
6 MDQ have gotten their stuff together. Right now
7 there are some questions whether they can even do
8 their job, and until after we straighten some
9 stuff out then maybe they can do the study. So
10 they don't fail Flint and fail us too.

11 We also--Manuel Moroun has a history
12 of derailing progress. He puts money into making
13 sure other business do not thrive. He owns most
14 of the trucking companies. In fact, if you want
15 to watch a video, there was a video done by John
16 Stewart and John Oliver out of Comedy Central
17 Show; the Daily Show. Please note that and watch
18 that video.

19 A lot of the people you're seeing here
20 today supporting the second bridge were against
21 the Gordie Howe Bridge. He put 23 million
22 dollars into a campaign against the second

1 bridge. This is the mentality that's going to
2 make sure the only businesses that thrive is his.

3 As far as jobs are considered, my work
4 also tries to work into advocating to make sure
5 jobs are included over all these developments
6 occurring in Southwest Detroit. When the hockey
7 arena got built in Midtown, everyone's screaming
8 job, jobs, jobs, jobs. They show up at City
9 Council with their buttons that said jobs, job,
10 jobs. No jobs developed. We had a conversation
11 with Blaze Construction, Blaze, a former football
12 player for the Detroit Lions that owns
13 construction companies. He will say, there was
14 no jobs that came with the Red Wing Stadium. And,
15 guess what, if there's job that come with the
16 this Ambassador Bridge, unless we have a legal
17 binding benefit agreement, no jobs are going to
18 go to Detroit residents. They're going to go to
19 the suburbs. Just think of the hockey arena.
20 There was no jobs that were created. There was
21 only a transfer of jobs. And those jobs already
22 have, they're just political clout. They're just

1 there to make means and do a favor for the
2 neighborhood. They don't hire anyone that shows
3 up to those.

4 So, with that being said, once again,
5 I disagree; that we should not be looking at
6 this. I also know my uncle Robert Thibodeau was
7 up here and he's going to have to find his own
8 ride home. I'm joking. Thank you very much.

9 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr.
10 Thibodeau. Back to Speaker 85. Looks like I have
11 two names on here. One I already said; either
12 Carl or Carla Aye and then maybe--Coleman Young
13 II. The next speaker then will be Mr. Coleman
14 Young followed by Mr. Kevin Casilles. I'll say
15 at this point that will be the last speakers I
16 have listed. If anybody still wishes to speak,
17 if you could go out and fill out a speaker card.

18 MR. YOUNG: Thank you so much to the
19 Coast Guard for allowing me to be here. I just
20 want to say at a time when you have children who
21 are suffering from asthma; at a time where you
22 have men who are wearing breathing apparatuses;

1 at a time where you have abandoned buildings that
2 are plaguing the Southwest Detroit community; in
3 a place where you are 70 percent more likely to
4 get cancer; where people have died from
5 environmental injustice; we cannot build a bridge
6 until the issues of the people have been
7 addressed first.

8 When there is no hope for the future
9 there is no power in the present. And, even
10 though we're talking about a bridge, the impact
11 that it will have will reverberate throughout the
12 generations. It will spawn throughout the
13 centuries. What do we want to tell our
14 grandchildren and their children and their
15 children after that? That we built something and
16 we didn't address the critical issues of the
17 people who are suffering? Society is not judged
18 based on helping the rich or the powerful. It's
19 judged based on the poor and the vulnerable. The
20 people in Southwest Detroit are vulnerable and
21 they have been through enough. This
22 environmental racism and environmental injustice

1 must end.

2 So, I am asking you, I'm begging you,
3 I'm imploring you, I'm telling you please, please
4 join the citizens of Southwest Detroit and let us
5 address the issues and the ills of the people and
6 let us build a prosperous, phenomenal, healthy
7 future for the next generation together, and then
8 we can have the conversation of what project gets
9 built. Let's have a community benefits
10 agreement. Let's have an environmental impact
11 statement. But more importantly, let us all come
12 together as one voice; black, white, Latino, and
13 let us address the issues. Because at the end of
14 the day we are all Detroiters and this effects
15 all of us. If one of us faces injustice, all of
16 us faces injustice. So let us go toward justice
17 and environmental protection together. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Young.
20 Our next speaker is Mr. Kevin Casilles.

21 MR. CASILLES: Hello. My name is
22 Kevin Casilles, Pastor of First Latin American

1 Baptist Church about a mile down from this house
2 of prayer. My brothers, I also give thanks to
3 God for this house of prayer that allows us to
4 meet tonight for this very important community
5 meeting. I'm glad that he's a God of truth. I'm
6 glad that he's a God of justice. I'm glad that
7 he's the God that causes us to repentance for our
8 greed, for our lack of love for our neighbors.
9 And one day we will give an account not just to
10 you but to Him.

11 And I am a pastor in that church now
12 for about seven years. I go with my wife several
13 times a week. I'm also a school teacher in DPS.
14 This week my ten-month-old baby, we took him to
15 the doctor and we began to have the nebulizer
16 treatments for my ten-month-old and my
17 four-year-old. I pray that it's not asthma. But
18 like my neighbors, who have been in this
19 community for many more years, they have children
20 with asthma. They have suffered the effects of
21 the diesel emissions and particulate matter.

22 As you've heard, there's a lot of

1 distress in our Government officials and
2 Government agencies in the bureaucracy. Ladies
3 and gentleman of the Coast Guard, please do not
4 make the same mistakes they have. Please don't
5 sell out the community and the health of children
6 because of what some private company would want
7 to do with their money. We saw how that failed
8 in Flint with those contractors there, and you
9 have a responsibility not to.

10 And, you know, we're not trying to
11 make people into boogie men here. We just lived
12 through it when this person blocked traffic and
13 closed Fort Street. We lived through when this
14 company was with the Gateway Project. I almost
15 had a truck crash into my car there parked in
16 front of the church. Like the congregants of
17 this congregation during this time, we had to
18 navigate through all the different trucks that
19 are on Fort Street. And even as recent as about
20 a month ago there was an overturned truck right
21 here on the service drive.

22 And I'm saying what good is a new

1 bridge with a park if the kids are getting asthma
2 and getting hit by trucks getting to that park
3 under that bridge? I'm urging you that there be
4 an environmental impact study done and a full
5 health study of the impact of this expansion of
6 the current Ambassador Bridge.

7 MR. GARNEAU: Thank you, Mr. Casilles.
8 Do we have anybody else that wishes to speak at
9 this time?

10 (None responded.)

11 MR. GARNEAU: I would like to thank
12 everybody for coming out this evening as we no
13 longer have any additional speakers and I will
14 ask one more time. I will check once more if
15 there's anybody else that wishes at this time.

16 (None responded.)

17 MR. GARNEAU: On behalf of the Coast
18 Guard, I thank everyone for your participation in
19 this meeting. In closing, I'd like to remind
20 everyone that the Coast Guard will be accepting
21 written comments on the Ambassador Bridge
22 Enhancement Project Application through February

1 28, 2016. Instructions on how to submit comments
2 are located at the bottom of the comment sheet
3 available at the registration desk.

4 Once again, this meeting was intended
5 to solicit comments and should in no way be
6 construed as a decision being made or opinion
7 formed by the Coast Guard on the merits of the
8 proposed bridge project before us. The time is
9 now 8:25. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you
10 again and have a safe trip home.

11 (Whereupon, the meeting went off the
12 record at 8:25 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Enhancement Project: Public Meeting

Before: U.S. Coast Guard

Date: 02-25-16

Place: Detroit, Michigan

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