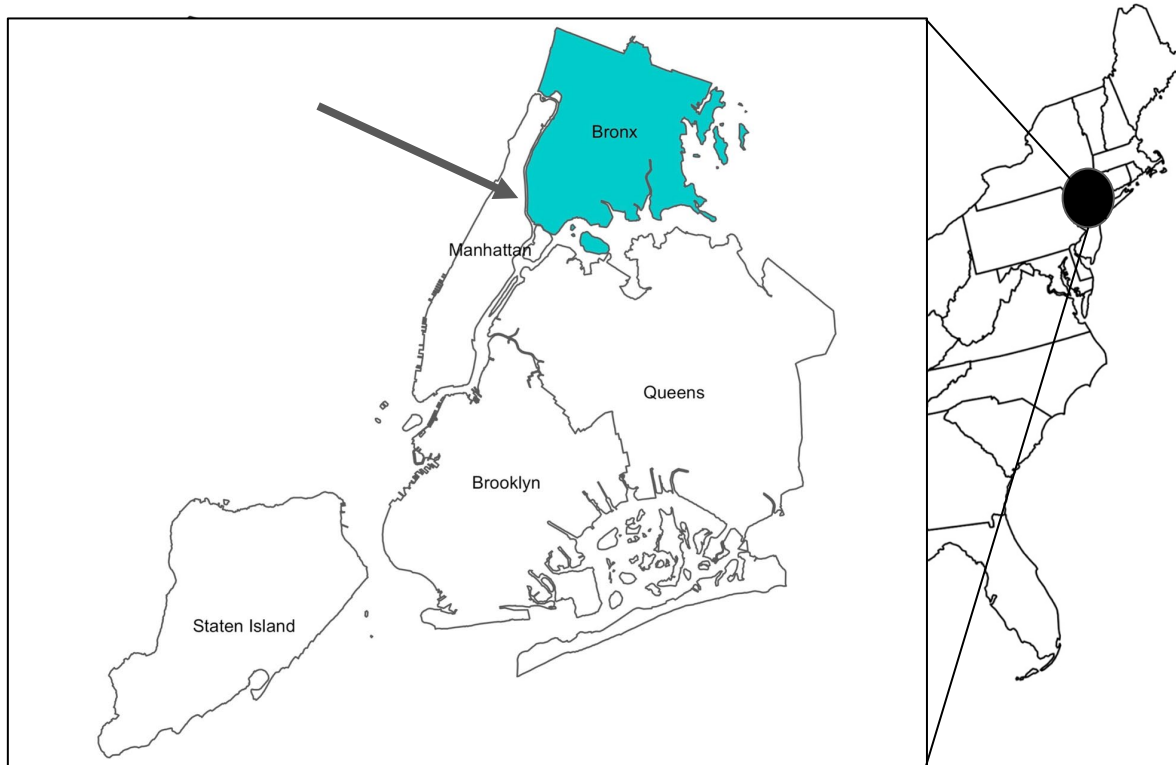


A New Way Forward: The South Bronx Significant Maritime Industrial Area

A. Mychal Johnson

South Bronx Unite

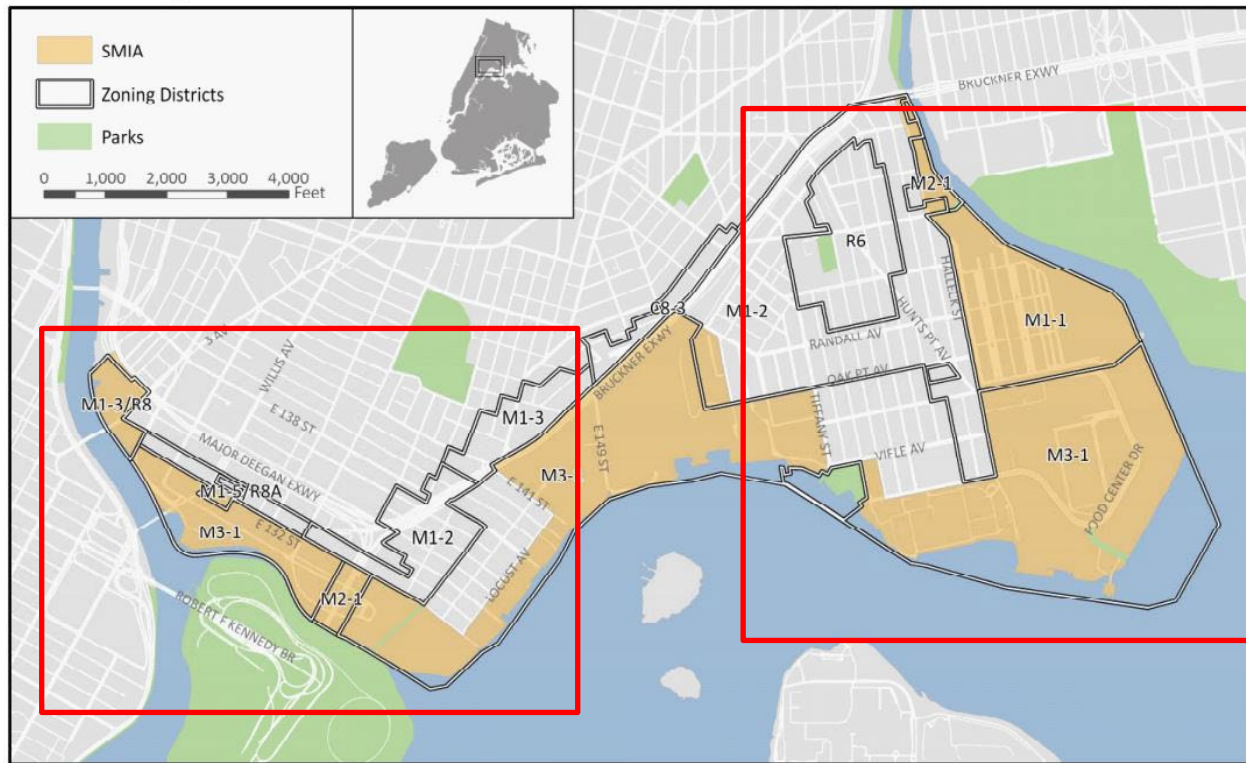
The South Bronx is a neighborhood impacted by decades of environmental injustice.



South Bronx Unite

The South Bronx Significant Maritime Industrial Area (SMIA) is 850 acres and the largest in NYC.

South Bronx Significant Maritime and Industrial Area, the Bronx



Harlem
River
Yards

Hunts
Point
Market

- Harlem River Yards - 103 acres of state-owned waterfront land
- 99-year lease to Galesi Group to build out intermodal rail for regional public benefit (with resulting local harm)
- Intermodal rail was never built and is no longer viable; subject of two audits



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Current conditions of the shoreline at Harlem River Yards.



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Current uses at Harlem River Yards.



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The health impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, URBAN HEALTH Apr. 08 2022

South Bronx Traffic Congestion Worsens, Raising Health and Safety Concerns



Environmental racism in the Bronx: Why the asthma rate is so high in the borough

by: Jay Dow
Posted: Oct 19, 2020 / 06:39 PM EDT
Updated: Oct 19, 2020 / 06:39 PM EDT



'Asthma alley': why minorities bear burden of pollution inequity caused by white people

 PROPUBLICA

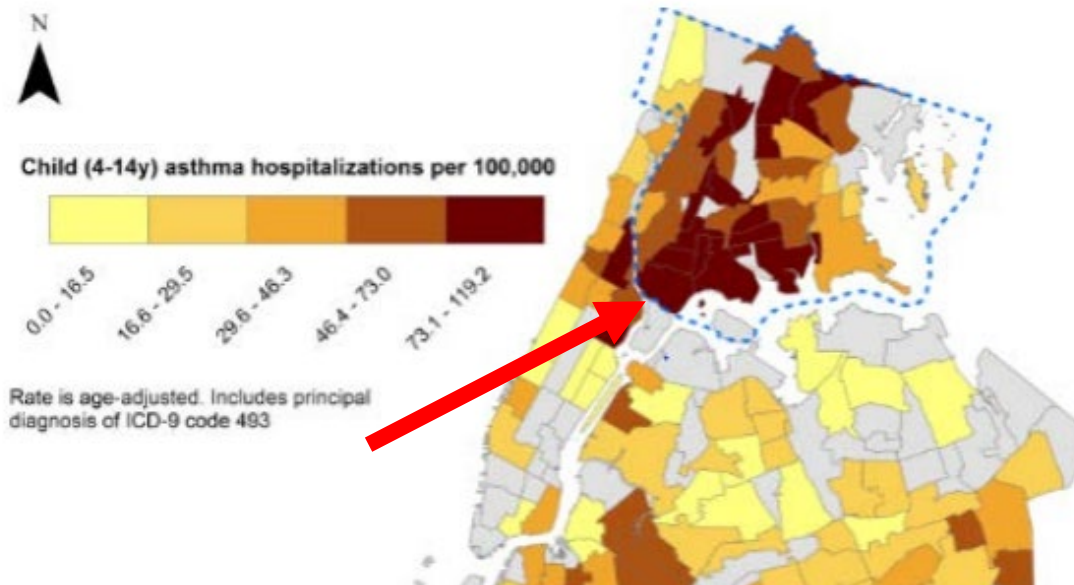
New Research Shows Disproportionate Rate of Coronavirus Deaths in Polluted Areas

by Lylla Younes, ProPublica, and Sara Sneath, Sept. 11, 2020, 6 a.m. EDT

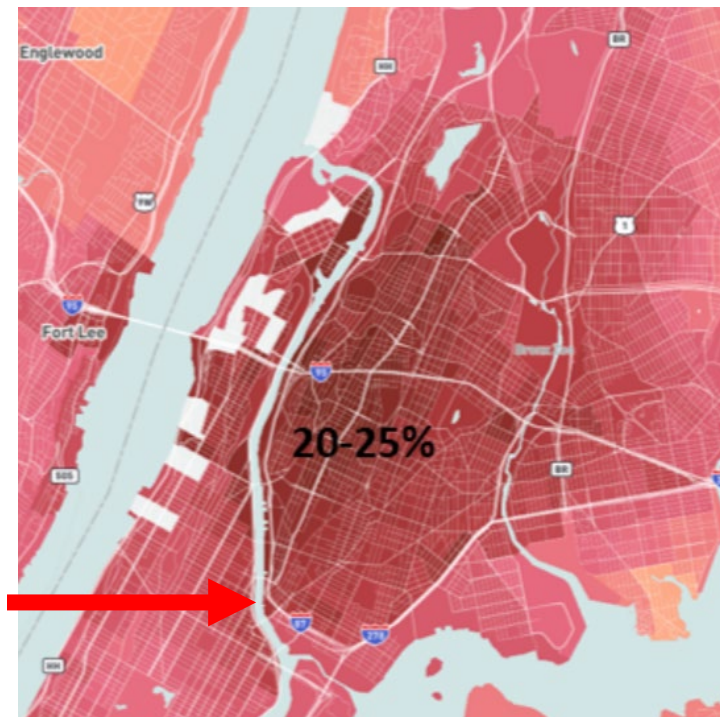


The health impact.

The South Bronx has the highest childhood asthma hospitalization rates in NYC.



Data source: SPARCS Hospital Discharge Data (2014),
data from New York City Neighborhood Health Atlas



% of New Childhood Asthma Cases from
Air Pollution



Image courtesy of EDF

South Bronx Unite

How do we respond? We push back.



South Bronx Unite

And propose solutions.



Air quality monitoring with Columbia Mailman School of Public Health



● Air Monitoring & Noise Monitoring Only

● Traffic Counting, Air Monitoring, & Noise Monitoring

□ Online Grocery Delivery Service Warehouse

Development of climate change-resilient waterfront plan, prioritized by NYS Open Space Plan



South Bronx Unite

And propose solutions.

Worked with legislators to mandate that any new uses at Harlem River Yards rectify decades of environmental injustice; and pushing through NYS cumulative impact legislation

RITCHIE TORRES
THE BRONX

November 18, 2021

Ms. Marie Therese Dominguez, Esq.
Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Commissioner Dominguez:

We write to highlight the imminent public health and environmental risks associated with the upcoming lease sale of the Harlem River Yards Trade Center. Harlem River Yards is a waterfront industrial property in the Mott Haven and Port Morris neighborhoods of the Bronx that is likely to be leased to last-mile delivery warehousing.

Harlem River Yards has operated under the ownership of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) since the 1970s. Currently, the State of New York is in a 99-year lease agreement with Harlem River Yard Ventures to develop and operate Harlem River Yards as a mixed-use site.¹ Since the late 1990s, Harlem River Yards has undergone substantial commercial development after the State accepted several proposals for its privatization. It has since housed a New York Post printing plant, a waste treatment plant, and a FedEx distribution center.

As the e-commerce market grows in popularity, last-mile distribution has become more reliant on urban warehousing to expedite delivery to consumers while mitigating rapidly increasing supply chain costs.² The growing demand for urban warehousing ignited a debate in 2015 over the proposed relocation of a FreshDirect warehouse location to the Harlem River Yard Trade Center, which developers brought to fruition despite vehement opposition from Bronx residents over the use of the space.³ Developers tout the Harlem River Yard Trade Center as accessible to the most densely populated consumer base in the country.

The potential economic benefits and job growth that the site would bring to the Bronx do not outweigh the certain environmental risks and threats to public health that would accompany it. Plagued by decades of air pollution from hazardous development, the Bronx suffers rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases over twice the citywide average. The influx of delivery vehicles, increased traffic congestion, and higher gas emissions will raise air pollution beyond its already unsustainable levels, which will worsen a decades-long public health crisis and could pose imminent deadly consequences to our constituents.

The Bronx cannot continue to shoulder the burdens of environmental racism in the name of economic revitalization. Environmentally conscious development of the site would reimagine the space to deliver much-needed outdoor recreational spaces for our constituents, invest in small businesses to drive our local economy, and offer boundless possibilities for a more resilient future.

As we stand on the precipice of irreversible climate change, it is imperative that development in the Bronx is both economically sound and environmentally sustainable. While negotiations on the use of the space move forward, it is imperative that DOT only permit uses of the site that serve the environmental needs of the Bronx: solutions that rectify decades of environmental injustice and promote a healthier, more sustainable future for our borough.

"The Bronx cannot continue to shoulder the burdens of environmental racism in the name of economic revitalization."

"Environmentally conscious development of the site would reimagine the space to deliver much-needed outdoor recreational spaces for our constituents, invest in small businesses to drive our local economy...for a more resilient future."

"...it is imperative that DOT only permit uses of the site that serve the environmental needs of the Bronx; solutions that rectify decades of environmental injustice and promote a healthier, more sustainable future for our borough."

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your timely response.
Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress
15th District, New York



Luis R. Sepúlveda
New York State Senator
Senate District 32



Amanda Sepúlveda
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 84



Vanessa Gibson
New York City Council Member
Council District 16



Jose Serrano
New York State Senator
Senate District 29



Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator
Senate District 31



Chantel Jackson
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 79



Kenye Burgos
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 85



Jose Rivera
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 78



Karine Reyes
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 87



Alexandra Biaggi
New York State Senator
Senate District 34



Diana Ayala
New York City Council Member
Council District 9



Rafael Salas
New York City Council Member
Council District 17



Latoria Ayers
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 77

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PASSES CUMULATIVE IMPACTS BILL A.2103-D

April 28, 2022

Climate and Energy Justice, Environmental Justice, Legislative, News, Racial Justice



And propose solutions.

Vacant sites: seeking partnerships for solar panel or other renewable energy product manufacturing facility

