

City of Cincinnati Council



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MOTION

On December 24, 2020, a BP gas station situated at the corner of West Eighth Street and Pedretti Avenue leaked an estimated 360 gallons of gasoline from one of its aging tanks. The gasoline penetrated sewer lines, affecting residents on Carnation Avenue, Cappel Drive and Hermosa Avenue. Dozens were forced to leave their homes or endure serious restrictions on their indoor activities due to the presence of gasoline fumes. We believe other aging gas stations — many in lower-income neighborhoods — may also have aging tanks which could put our citizens at risk. Accordingly, WE MOVE that the Administration provide a full report regarding the leak and all efforts to remediate it. This report should provide concise information for the affected residents regarding claims they may make to the Metropolitan Sewer District for compensation related to the leak, as well as an outline of the various state and local agencies with jurisdiction over the matter and all efforts (civil, criminal and administrative) which are being undertaken to address the negligence which led to this incident. Moreover, ME MOVE that the Administration work with all applicable state, local and federal agencies to compile a list of other aging gas stations within the City limits which may reasonably present a similar risk to City residents.

Jan-Michele Lemon Keaney (PP)

Betsy Sundaman

[Signature]

[Signature]

Christina M. Whitman

(Statement on reverse side)

STATEMENT

The December 24th leak at the BP gas station on West Eighth Street and Pedretti Avenue provides a stark reminder of the impact aging infrastructure can have on our residents.

Dozens of Cincinnatians were forced to disrupt their holiday activities — which had already been compromised by COVID — to deal with awful smells and restrictions on candles and lighting. In some instances, individuals were forced to leave their homes on Christmas Day and seek shelter in nearby hotels, at significant expense.

We also note that aging gas stations such as this one are often located in lower-income neighborhoods, and thus can reasonably be seen as a contributor to the well-documented phenomenon of environmental racism.

Accordingly, the signers of this Motion feel an obligation to make both this leak, and the identification of potential future leaks, a priority for both Council and the Administration.