

The waste industrial lobbyists will tell you that Intro 495 is bad. But what they will not mention is the health and noise issues of having waste transfer stations in very close proximity to residents, such as myself. They will not mention the disaster that took place at The Royal Waste Company in 2009 that cost the lives of 3 workers when they fell into an 18 foot deep/3 foot wide hole filled with deadly liquid and put huge toxic amounts of hydrogen sulfide into the air. They will not mention that a small church is directly next to their facility, or that several homes are in close proximity, including a Senior Citizen Apartment Building or that Detective Keith Williams Park is across the street from their facility, where hundreds of adults, teenagers, children and babies go during the warm weather.

They also will not mention how many of their facilities do not follow the law, like Royal Waste Services and others, which have their large noisy trucks spewing diesel fuel into the air as they drive illegally on residential streets, such as 170th Street between Jamaica Avenue & Hillside Avenue, where I live. 24/7 these trucks will blatantly use this street as opposed to designated truck routes, some at high speeds above the normal 25mph posted and ignoring the one stop sign at 170th St/90th Ave. Beside the safety issue the noise issue that comes with such trucks is unbearable as they come through 4:00am on a daily basis and continues sometimes up until 2:00am every single day. While residents did not get a say so in having so many of these waste transfer stations dumped into our communities, mostly communities of color and lower economic residents, we want to have a say in having 495 passed.

City Council, whom I can accurately say live nowhere near these facilities must say NO to the waste industrial lobbyists and YES to Intro 495.

Would any of you sitting there have said yes to these facilities if they were in close proximity to your home, your family and your children? If your answer is NO, then your answer to Intro 495 should be undeniably YES.

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