

North East Denver Follow-up Meeting – November 11, 2009

On Wednesday, November 11, 2009, the Environmental Justice Unit conducted its first follow-up meeting in response to a community listening session held in April 2009.

The community listening session was designed to focus on environmental issues confronting residents in their everyday lives. During the community listening session, 13 categories of issues were identified by residents in the Elyria, Swansea, and Globeville neighborhoods. In partnership with the Director of the Cross Community Coalition Family Resource Center (CCCCRC), community members were invited and encouraged to attend to share their concerns.



In addition, translations between English and Spanish were provided by Sandra Fusco of Region 8 and staff members of CCCFRC. The objective of this first follow-up meeting to the Listening Session was to talk about the use of the City and County of Denver's "311" number to address community complaints. During the listening session in April, community members expressed a need to understand the 311 program in interest of reporting local odor issues from diesel truck idling, carcass smells, and plant manufacturing. Working collaboratively, the EJ Unit contacted the 311 Operations Unit and invited them to speak at this community meeting on its functions, process, and history.



Approximately 30 community members attended. During the two hour meeting, community members learned about the 311 Operations, participated in a question and answer session, and left with a better understanding of its appropriate use. The 30 attendees were also asked to vote on the top four issues they wanted to work on next in the community. The top four issues identified were Park Safety & Cleanliness, Asthma & Indoor Air, Streets & Alleys, and Drug traffic.

The Environmental Justice Unit will continue to work collaboratively in the upcoming year with the Cross Community Coalition Family Resource Center to address the environmental issues identified.

Contacts:

Tami Thomas-Burton
303-312-6581
thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov

Michael Wenstrom
303-312-7009
wenstrom.michael@epa.gov