

SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORS
32 Webster Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

Tel: 492-7900

November 12, 1976

Mr. Donald P. Squires
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Affairs
Air Quality and Hazardous Materials
600 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Squires:

Please let this communication serve to formally confirm and expand upon items discussed with you at the September 28, 1976 meeting of the Southside Neighbors. Your attendance at our meeting was the first response of the Commonwealth to complaints made by area residents in the early 1970's, and most recently resurrected by inquiries to your office this past summer, concerning Data Packaging Corp/ Morningstar Corp, a heavy industry located within our neighborhood. The following serves as a precis of issues as raised at the assembly:

1. Despite an apparent order from the State issued several years ago mandating the abandonment of utilizing three (3) large exhaust fans on the Clark Street side of the factory, use of same continued until this summer.
2. The company, without regard to the health or well-being of abutters to the factory has indiscriminately utilized heavy machinery on a twenty-four hour basis upwards of seven days a week causing lack of sleep for many residents and general discord to the quality of life for persons living in the immediate proximity of the factory, and, given certain wind conditions, to persons residing some distance from the facility.
3. While not having specific knowledge of the various kinds of apparatus utilized by the company in its production work, our general complaint covers the excessive noise generated by sirens, loudspeakers, presses, moulders, and grinders, especially where hydraulic techniques are utilized.

4. The removal of refuse is undertaken at hours when people would normally be involved in night sleeping, especially in the early morning hours.
5. During warmer weather, the factory opens its windows and exhaust louvers making the noise the paramount note of the environment. Even when same are closed, the noise permeates the area.
6. When certain machines are utilized their vibrations can be felt in adjoining residential structures.
7. Vapors of an unknown substance permeate the air at irregular intervals and are especially noticeable in those instances when there is little or no wind.
8. For many years people have had to endure irregular sleep. This has been especially burdensome to the substantial numbers of elderly living in the neighborhood. For those who have to get sleep to be productive in their employment the jolting noises in the middle of the night hours have contributed to untold tired work days.
9. The influence of the factory is felt in additional ways including the utilization of the sidewalk areas in our neighborhood by factory workers for parking.
10. During rain storms a sewerage or overflow pipe at the corner of Hampshire and Clark Streets emits an abundance of liquid of a white color and foamy consistency. This fluid flows into the street and floods the corner area until the city sewers eliminate its presence.

We do not undertake to formalize these issues through this correspondence because we are anti business or industry in our attitudes. We recognize the need for employment opportunities especially in these days of economic uncertainty.

As homeowners and residents our primary concern is guaranteeing the standard of life we enjoy at home. It is a standard which worsens each day and now that violations of the Commonwealth's Community Noise Regulations are allowed to continue along with other inroads against the quality of air we breathe.

We trust that through the enforcement vehicles afforded us through your department these problems will be eliminated and you will not have to turn this matter over to the Attorney General's Office.

At the same time we are adamant that appropriate remedies be taken to correct the violations, whatever the enforcement agency.

Our desire in this instance is prompted by a concern to ultimately join with the owners and or management of Morningstar in addressing certain other environmental factors which we feel could contribute to upgrading the quality of life and business for the neighborhood.

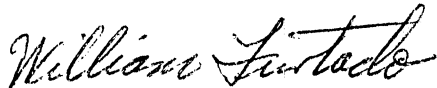
Your timely and thorough personal response to our concerns is appreciated.

In confirmation of your schedule for compliance with the citations issued by your office to Morningstar, we await your communication as to the company's intentions to comply so that we may plan appropriately.

Again, thank you.

For the membership,

Very truly yours,



William Furtado
Corresponding Secretary

cc: Mr. David Standley, Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental
Quality Engineers
Mr. Halligan, General Manager, Data Packaging Corp.
Mr. James Sullivan, City Manager
Mr. Charles Sprague, Cambridge Building Comm.
~ Mr. Paul Healey, City Clerk

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Copy of Communication from William Furtado,
Sec'y, Southside Neighbors, to Donald P.
Squires of the Dept. of Environmental Affairs,
Commonwealth of Mass.

In City Council,
November 22, 1976

*Report to Council
City Solicitor
for Report -
to Council*