

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Maria Powell (MEJO) <mariapowell@mejo.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:22 PM  
**To:** Veldran, Lisa; Abbas, Syed  
**Cc:** Mayor; Orrantia, Leslie; Baumel, Christie; All Alders  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #4 Common Council Executive Committee meeting 6-11-20

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Dear Common Council Executive Committee:

We are deeply troubled to learn just today that the Metro plan for a bus barn at the former Oscar Mayer site was added to this special meeting of the Common Council Executive Committee, and is now apparently being considered part of the OMSAP even though it wasn't before. This is a horrible public process and prevents adequate public engagement.

As I described in my [February comments](#) to the Plan Commission, the proposed location for the bus barn is over a plume of extremely high levels of chlorinated compounds, including highly toxic trichloroethylene (TCE) and other volatile organic chemicals. The buildings the city hopes to purchase for this facility were used by Oscar Mayer for plastics manufacturing and solvent extractions to manufacture flavorings for food products.

The DNR and city have known about this toxic plume of chemicals for years. In the late 1980s/early 1990s, the area northeast of the Packers/HW 30 interchange--connected to the proposed bus barn area underground, and also part of the OMSAP-- qualified to be placed on the Superfund list. The bus barn area would very likely qualify under Superfund as well.

To date there has been no public engagement about this toxic plume, or other toxic contamination at the OM site, and their myriad public and environmental health effects, some of which will fall disproportionately on people of color and low income people. Have affected neighbors near the site, and especially the most at-risk people, had opportunities to learn about and engage in decisions about this highly contaminated site? We have seen no evidence of that.

**Please defer this item to a future meeting. Whether or not the Metro bus barn proposal is going to be considered part of the OMSAP, but especially if it is, then it should go through the same extensive public engagement process included in the OMSAP process.**

Thank you,

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