

State of Southeast Houston Community

1) Community Description

The targeted community for the Mothers for Clean Air Improving Environmental Quality through Collaboration project is located in southeast Houston outside the I-610 Loop and bordered by I-45 on the West, State Highway 225 on the North, the city of Pasadena to the East, and the city of South Houston to the South. We will specifically develop the project in neighborhoods within zip code 77017. The Southeast Houston Community has 7 major neighborhoods; Harrisburg/ Smith Addition, Park Place, Manchester, Clinton Park, Meadowbrook, Oak Meadows / Forest Oak, and Meadowcreek Village.

a) Southeast Houston Community (77017) Characteristics

2000 Census Data indicates that there are 32,823 people occupying 9654 households in this community. Southeast Houston is a low-income, primarily Latino community. The community is 74% Hispanic, 18% White, 4% Asian and 3% African-American. Nearly one-fourth of the households have incomes of less than \$15,000 per year. The community also has a young population with a fairly low level of formal education. Almost one-third are under 18 years of age and of those over 25, nearly one-third do not have a high school diploma. The unemployment rate averages 5-7%. The housing value for this area is 52% lower than the national average according to the Houston Association of Realtors.

The actual spending per student in this area is 17% lower than the national average according to the 2000 Census. In addition, the city of Houston education system faces a major challenge in providing adequate bilingual education as 68.5% of the students speak another language at home, primarily Spanish. Finally, according to the Environmental Protection Agency Community Environmental Ratings, the environmental characteristics for this area for air quality, water quality and toxics sites are among the lowest in the nation. The following table illustrates the social, economic, housing, and environmental characteristics for the 2000 Census and how they compare to the national average.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	SOUTHEAST HOUSTON	U.S.A
Population	32,823	294,994,480
Median Age	27.7	35.3
Hispanic	74.3%	12.5%
White alone	18.1%	75.1%
Asian	4.0	3.6%
African American	2.9%	12.3%
Total Housing Units	10,257	N/A
Occupied Housing Units	9,654	N/A
Owner	54%	66.2%
Renter	45.1%	33.8%
Median Home Purchase Value	\$63,632	\$137,081
Home appreciation	5.50%	6.27%
Median Age of homes	31.5	27.8

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS		
School Achievement Index	2.20	5.20
Spending Per Student	\$5,028	\$5,896
High School Graduation Rate	65.76%	76.44%
Bachelors Degree or Higher	7.5%	24.4%
Foreign Born	36.8%	11.1%
Speak other Language than English at Home	68.5%	17.9%
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS		
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	4.70%
Median Household Income	31,762	41,994
Median Family Income	33,786	50,046
Per Capita Income	12,399	21,587
Families Below Poverty Level	16.8%	9.2%
Individuals Below Poverty Level	19.0%	12.4%
Commuting to Work (transportation)	90.1%	N/A
Car	67.6%	N/A
Carpooled	22.5%	N/A
Public Transportation	3.1%	N/A
Mean Travel time to work	27.4	25.5

2) Community Profile and Services

Some of the services provided in the community include 4 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school. Also there are private child care facilities in the community. There are 4 civic clubs, approximately 20 places of worship, 2 police stations, 3 parks, businesses, community centers, post offices and other services. Additionally, it is home to 4 major industrial facilities. Below is more detailed information listing the locations of the community services and industries.

a) Neighborhoods

- Harrisburg/ Smith Addition
- Park Place
- Manchester
- Clinton Park
- Meadowbrook
- Oak Meadows/ Forest Oak

b) Schools (HISD Schools)

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) offers six schools in the community. Cesar E. Chavez High School, the newest one, is a state of the art school and is an environmental science magnet school. The environmental student club is very active, providing services to community members to improve the aesthetics of their neighborhood. Recently, the club won a National Wetland Conservation Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The students enhanced a wetland on the school's campus that serves as an outdoor classroom for their program and for other HISD students and teachers.

The students in Southeast Houston schools are 90% or more Hispanic and 60% or more are limited in English, according to HISD. HISD faces a major challenge in working towards providing a bilingual/bicultural education. The students need not only to educate themselves in English but also the teachers need to learn Spanish in order to provide an adequate education. If HISD is to provide successful education, it needs to be done both in English and in Spanish.

Schools	Students Profile
Bonner Elementary School 8100 Elrod Houston, Texas 77017-5216 phone: (713) 943 -5740 fax: (713) 943-5741	897 students 95% Hispanic 65% Limited English (LEP)
Park Place Elementary School 8235 Park Place Houston, Texas 77017-3104 phone: (713) 845-7458 fax: (713) 845-7460	1,051 students 77% Hispanic 64% LEP
Patterson Elementary School 5302 Allendale Houston, Texas 77017-6214 phone: (713) 943-5750 fax: (713) 943-5755	852 students 84% Hispanic 33% LEP
Rucker Elementary School 5201 Vinett Houston, Texas 77017-4958 phone: (713) 845-7467 fax: (713) 845-5083	728 students 96% Hispanic 67% LEP
Stevenson Middle School 9595 Winkler Houston, Texas 77017-5921 phone: (713) 943-5700 fax: (713) 943-5711	1174 students 91% Hispanic 16% LEP
Cesar E. Chavez High School 8501 Howard Houston, Texas 77017-3289 phone: (713) 495-6950 fax: (713) 495-6986	2,295 students 83% Hispanic 19% LEP

c) Civic Clubs

Civic Clubs (Address and President)	Meeting Day & Time	Contact Information
Forest Oaks Civic Association Olga Capetillo	2 nd Thursday of the month	713-649-2210
Meadowbrook Civic Club Jaye Mayse Bonner Elementary School (Cafeteria) 8100 Elrod	3 rd Tuesday of the month 7:00pm	713-376-6540
Oak Meadows Civic Club Rita Castro		713-641-3550 omcc@evi.net
Meadowcreek Village Civic Club Greg Brown	2nd Thursday of month 7:00pm	713-947-0049 MeadowcreekVillage.org mvccgbrown@att.net

d) Places of Worship

- Allendale Baptist Church, 414 Allen Genoa Rd , 713-477-9056
- Broadway Church –The Nazarene, 2711 Broadway St., 713 644-5979
- Christ United Methodist Church, 9045 Howard Dr., 713-649-1387
- Church of God Seventh Day, 8202 Park Terrace, 713-643-8083
- Church of Jesus Christ of Lords, 3000 Broadway St., 713-645-2521
- Cristo para America, 9195 Winkler Dr., 713-378-4185
- Elim Church, 3200 S Richey St., 713-944-8721
- Forest Oak Baptist Church, 1845 Forest Oak Dr., 713-645-2421
- Gulfgate Apostolic Church, 8012 Easton St., 713-649-4604
- Meadowbrook Baptist Church, 8202 Howard Dr., 713-643-1992

- Oak Meadows-Church of God, 6105 Allendale Rd., 713-643-5402
- Park Place Lutheran Church, 3912 Meridian St., 713-644-2344
- Park Place United Methodist, 3827 Broadway St., 713-645-2461
- Southeast Worship Center, 7800 South Loop East
- St. Augustine Catholic Church, 5560 Laurel Creek Way, 713-946-8968

e) Community Centers, Libraries, and Parks

- Meadowbrook Learning Center / Park, 8202 Howard Dr., 713-643-9774
- Park Place Library, 8145 Park Place Blvd., 832-393-1970
- Tejano – Center, 2950 Broadway St., 713-644-2340
- Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center, 3997 River Dr., 713-643-5827
- Charlton Community Center 8200 Park Place Blvd., 713-645-3589
- Glenbrook Golf Course / Park, 8201 North Bayou Drive
- Milby Park, 2001 Central St.
- Ray Park, 8401 Elrod St.
- Oak Meadows Park, 500 Ahrens St.

3) **City, State and Federal Resources**

- Houston Police Department, 4701 Old Galveston Road, 713-847-1210
- U.S. Post Office, 315 Allen Genoa Road, 800-275-8777
- U.S. Post Office, 5302 Old Galveston Road, 800-275-8777

Elected Officials for Southeast Houston Community, Zip Code 77017

Political Office and Name	Area Served	Phone
Mayor* Bill White	City Wide	713-247-2200
City Council Representatives* Carol Alvarado	District I	713-247-2011
Addie Wiseman	District E	713-247-2008
State Representatives Rick Noriega	District 145	713-649-6563 713-207-3091
Joe Moreno	District 143	713-675-8596
State Senators Mario Gallegos	District 6	713-678-8600
Mike Jackson	District 11	713-948-0111
U.S. Representative Gene Green	District 29	202-225-1688 713-330-0761
U.S. Senators John Cornyn	Texas	202-224-2934 713-572-3337
Kay Bailey Hutchison	Texas	202-224-5922 713-653-3456

* To address the mayor and Houston City Council on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM, 901 Bagby, 2nd floor, contact the City Secretary 713-247-1840.

4) Major Industries in the Community

a) Industry Information

The community is also home to four major industries located in the same geographical area along the Houston Ship Channel. They are described below.

**I) Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
2000 Goodyear Dr.
Houston, TX 77017
713-477-8801**

To provide a new rubber supply and to ration existing stockpiles, the government developed a large-scale system in 1941 to design production facilities from the ground up and make synthetic rubber to supply the war. The Houston plant was set up as part of this strategy. After World War II, the government decided to sell off its rubber plants and Goodyear purchased it in 1955. At the same time the American boom of buying automobiles and building homes was at its peak.

The plant produces styrene, butadiene, latex, and rubber for the manufacture of tires, industrial goods, toys, shoe soles, and chewing gum. Latex is used in the manufacture of products such as foam rubber, adhesives, additives to asphalt and tire cord rubber.

The plant occupies 130 acres of land, has 450 employees. It consists of 104 reactors, 10 finishing lines, and 5 latex concentrators. In 1999 Goodyear entered the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program safety program. It has reduced air emissions over 80% in the past 12 years. They have an emergency response team trained in fire fighting, rescue, and hazardous materials response. Forty-five employees volunteered in this program.

Some uses of toxic chemicals at the facility:

Chemical Name: **1, 3-BUTADIENE**

Process the chemical as a reactant and as a formulation component.

Chemical Name: **AMMONIA**

Use the chemical as a manufacturing aid.

Chemical Name: **BENZO (G, H, I) PERYLENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical as a byproduct, and process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **CHLORINE**

Use the chemical as a manufacturing aid.

Chemical Name: **DIPHENYLAMINE**

Process the chemical as a formulation component.

Chemical Name: **NITRATE COMPOUNDS**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical as a byproduct, and process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **SODIUM NITRITE**

Use the chemical as a chemical processing aid.

Chemical Name: **STYRENE**

Process the chemical as a reactant and as a formulation component.

**II) Texas Petrochemicals L.P.
8600 Park Place Blvd.
Houston, TX 77017
713-477-9211**

Texas Petrochemicals (TPC) was built as a supply source for Goodyear and Bayer, serving as a butyl rubber plant. It produced butadiene and isobutylene from butane, which went to Bayer and Goodyear for rubber tire production. Butadiene, a by-product of ethylene manufacturing, now serves as the plant's feedstock instead of butane.

The plant also produces specialty chemicals such as isobutylene, which is used in rubber for belts and hoses. Polyisobutylene is a new product that is used to make plastics cling and the cloudy type plastic bag.

Goodyear and Exxon-Mobil are neighbors of TPC. Exxon-Mobil supplies Crude C4 feedstock; it also sells co-generated power to Goodyear. A four-plant mutual aid agreement exists between TPC, Valero, Exxon-Mobil and Goodyear. TPC also participates in Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) to serve the Houston Ship Channel emergency response efforts as requested.

Some uses of toxic chemicals at the facility:

Chemical Name: **1, 3-BUTADIENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, imports (manufacture) the chemical, and manufacture the chemical for sale/distribution.

Chemical Name: **AMMONIA**

Use the chemical as a chemical processing aid and for ancillary or other use.

Chemical Name: **BENZENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufactures the chemical as a byproduct, and as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **BORON TRIFLUORIDE**

Use the chemical as a chemical processing aid.

Chemical Name: **CHLORINE**

Import (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical for on-site use/processing, and process the chemical as a reactant.

Chemical Name: **METHYL TERT-BUTYL ETHER**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical for on-site use/processing, manufacture the chemical for sale/distribution, and process the chemical as a reactant.

Chemical Name: **N, N-DIMETHYLFORMAMIDE**

Use the chemical as a chemical processing aid.

Chemical Name: **NAPHTHALENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **SODIUM NITRITE**

Use the chemical for ancillary or other use.

Chemical Name: **STYRENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

III) Lyondell-Citgo Refining L.P.
12000 Lawndale Ave.
Houston, TX 77017
713-321-4111

The industry was founded on 700 acres of land in 1917. In the early years it produced 200 barrels of lubricants a day to support the needs of World War I. In the 1920's crude units were built that produced 20,000 barrels a day of crude oil.

After World War II, the plant's fluidized catalytic cracker (FCC) and boilers were installed in the 1950's, and are still operating today. The FCC was able to produce 40,000 barrels a day, as the new boiler converted waste gas into steam, then into power. The facility changed ownership in 1969 when it was purchased by the Atlantic Richfield Company.

In 1976 the plant became part of the ARCO Petroleum Products. A large expansion increased capacity to 300,000 barrels a day and added 150 new jobs. At the same time, awareness of increasing environmental concerns brought about the use of the latest technology in air and water purification processes.

In 1985 a portion of the ARCO Channelview complex and the Houston refinery combined to form Lyondell, a division of ARCO, which later became Lyondell Petrochemical. In 1993 a partnership between Lyondell and CITGO allowed the formation of a jointly-owned company to operate the Houston plant, Lyondell-Citgo Refining Company, Ltd.

Some uses of toxic chemicals at the facility:

Chemical Name: **1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE**
Process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **1,3-BUTADIENE**
Process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **AMMONIA**
Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **BENZENE**
Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical for sale/distribution, and process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **BENZO(G,H,I)PERYLENE**
Process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **BIPHENYL**
Process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **CUMENE**
Process the chemical as an impurity and use the chemical for ancillary or other use.

Chemical Name: **CYCLOHEXANE**
Process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **DIETHANOLAMINE**
Process the chemical as a reactant.

Chemical Name: **ETHYLBENZENE**
Process the chemical as an impurity.

Chemical Name: **ETHYLENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical as a byproduct, process the chemical as an impurity, and use the chemical for ancillary or other use

Chemical Name: **LEAD**

Use the chemical for ancillary or other use.

Chemical Name: **M-XYLENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **MERCURY**

Process the chemical as an article component and as an impurity.

**IV) ExxonMobil Chemical Co.
9822 La Porte FWY.
Houston, TX 77017
713-740-6000**

The initial stage of the plant was built in 1960 by Sinclair and consisted of only 11 acres. In 1967 the olefins unit was started. The olefins unit was shut down in 1977 in an economic downturn, with the whole plant being sold to USS Chemicals in 1979. That year the olefins plant was restarted. The plant was sold to Mobil Chemical Company in 1988 by Aristech Chemical Corporation. Mobil dismantled the styrene plant and upgraded the wastewater treatment facilities, added a new lab and refinery gas separation unit, and improved distribution systems. In 1999 Exxon merged with Mobil and the site became part of the ExxonMobil Chemical Company.

At present, the plant produces ethylene and propylene. The site today, consists of 63 acres next to Goodyear. The facility became an Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) star certified plant in 1994. The OSHA certification is a series of quality assurance procedures that have to be accomplished by the Corporation in order to protect the safety and health of your employees.

Some uses of toxic chemicals at the facility:

Chemical Name: **1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE**

Use the chemical for ancillary or other use.

Chemical Name: **1,3-BUTADIENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **BENZENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **DICYCLOPENTADIENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **ETHYLBENZENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical as a byproduct.

Chemical Name: **ETHYLENE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical and manufacture the chemical for sale/distribution.

Chemical Name: **LEAD COMPOUNDS**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical for on-site use/processing use the chemical as a chemical processing aid.

Chemical Name: **N-HEXANE**

Produce (manufacture) the chemical, manufacture the chemical as a byproduct, and process the chemical as an impurity.

B. Toxic Release Inventory, submitted by the industries to the Environmental Protection Agency in 2003

2002 Toxic Release Inventory for the SE Houston Community – Zip Code 77017			
<u>Facility</u>	<u>Fugitive Air Emissions</u>	<u>Point Source Air Emissions</u>	<u>Total Air Emissions</u>
<u>GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER CO., 2000 GOODYEAR DR., HOUSTON</u>	171,662	191,479	363,141
<u>1,3-BUTADIENE</u>	4,252	4,058	8,310
<u>AMMONIA</u>	84,835	0	84,835
<u>BENZO(G,H,I)PERYLENE</u>	0	0	0
<u>CHLORINE</u>	60	0	60
<u>DIPHENYLAMINE</u>	0	0	0
<u>NITRATE COMPOUNDS</u>	0	0	0
<u>POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS</u>	0	0	0
<u>SODIUM NITRITE</u>	0	0	0
<u>STYRENE</u>	82,515	187,421	269,936
<u>LYONDELL-CITGO REFINING L.P., 12000 LAWNSDALE AVE., HOUSTON</u>	471,229	496,282	967,511
<u>1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE</u>	250	250	500
<u>1,3-BUTADIENE</u>	750	0	750
<u>AMMONIA</u>	750	1,654	2,404
<u>BENZENE</u>	89,665	58,962	148,627
<u>BENZO(G,H,I)PERYLENE</u>	0	0	0
<u>BIPHENYL</u>	250	250	500
<u>CUMENE</u>	250	250	500
<u>CYCLOHEXANE</u>	5,364	9,822	15,186
<u>DIETHANOLAMINE</u>	30,744	0	30,744
<u>ETHYLBENZENE</u>	14,863	38,432	53,295
<u>ETHYLENE</u>	47,322	24,470	71,792
<u>LEAD</u>	0	0	0
<u>M-XYLENE</u>	18,000	18,000	36,000
<u>MERCURY</u>	0	137	137
<u>METHYL TERT-BUTYL ETHER</u>	2,597	0	2,597
<u>N-HEXANE</u>	54,636	60,850	115,486
<u>NAPHTHALENE</u>	3,088	0	3,088
<u>NICKEL COMPOUNDS</u>	0	0	0
<u>P-XYLENE</u>	10,000	14,843	24,843
<u>PHENOL</u>	0	0	0
<u>POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS</u>	0	6,255	6,255
<u>PROPYLENE</u>	25,086	25,867	50,953
<u>STYRENE</u>	0	250	250
<u>TOLUENE</u>	51,529	94,549	146,078
<u>XYLENE (MIXED ISOMERS)</u>	116,085	141,441	257,526

<u>MOBIL CHEMICAL CO.</u>			
<u>HOUSTON OLEFINS PLANT.</u>			
<u>9822 LA PORTE FWY.,</u>			
<u>HOUSTON</u>	72,410	28,057	100,467
<u>1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE</u>	0	0	0
<u>1,3-BUTADIENE</u>	740	10	750
<u>BENZENE</u>	4,950	660	5,610
<u>DICYCLOPENTADIENE</u>	690	5	695
<u>DIETHANOLAMINE</u>	180	60	240
<u>ETHYLBENZENE</u>	50	540	590
<u>ETHYLENE</u>	31,520	14,500	46,020
<u>LEAD COMPOUNDS</u>	0	17	17
<u>METHANOL</u>	1,110	130	1,240
<u>N-HEXANE</u>	590	80	670
<u>NAPHTHALENE</u>	260	5	265
<u>PROPYLENE</u>	30,800	11,730	42,530
<u>STYRENE</u>	530	30	560
<u>TOLUENE</u>	870	200	1,070
<u>XYLENE (MIXED ISOMERS)</u>	120	90	210
<u>TEXAS PETROCHEMICALS</u>			
<u>L.P., 8600 PARK PL. BLVD.,</u>	89,364	118,802	208,166
<u>HOUSTON</u>			
<u>1,3-BUTADIENE</u>	58,315	89,914	148,229
<u>AMMONIA</u>	121	0	121
<u>BENZENE</u>	2	0	2
<u>BORON TRIFLUORIDE</u>	0	0	0
<u>CHLORINE</u>	NA	NA	NA
<u>METHANOL</u>	8,167	1,998	10,165
<u>METHYL TERT-BUTYL</u>	11,104	17,901	29,005
<u>ETHER</u>			
<u>N,N-</u>	10,162	299	10,461
<u>DIMETHYLFORMAMIDE</u>			
<u>NAPHTHALENE</u>	NA	NA	NA
<u>PROPYLENE</u>	1,437	8,600	10,037
<u>SODIUM NITRITE</u>	0	0	0
<u>STYRENE</u>	NA	NA	NA
<u>TERT-BUTYL ALCOHOL</u>	56	90	146
Total	804,665	834,620	1,639,285

c) Industry Resources

The industries have created the following resources to address and respond to community concerns.

- CAER Line – 281-476-2237

Citizens and media can call the Community Awareness and Education Response Line (CAER LINE) if they hear an emergency siren or see or smell something unusual. They can tune to 740am or 1010am (Spanish) and/or call the CAER Line to learn details of emergency situations. A message should be recorded on this line within 15 minutes of an accident.

- East Harris County Manufacturers Association –www.ehcma.com
281-334-9091, EHCMA PO Box 1294 League City, Texas 77574-1294

EHCMA is a non-profit professional association of approximately 125 chemical manufacturers, refiners, and supporting distribution/terminal facility managers in east Harris County, Texas. Their mission is “to promote the health, safety, environmental, and economic well-being of our industry and of the communities where we live and work and to continue open, honest and candid dialogue with our community and industrial neighbors, agency officials, and the news media to better understand and address issues and concerns.”

- Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) – Houston CAP
Facilitator: Mary Jane Naquin 713-993-9317

Developed by the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Citizen Advisory Panels (CAP) brings together industry representatives and community members with diverse backgrounds and views for open dialogue on relevant issues. Also known as Community Advisory Councils, CAPs meet on a regular basis to discuss such topics as plant operations, emergency response, odors and pollution, safety, health, environment and product stewardship. The CAP for Southeast Houston is called the Houston CAP and is represented by six neighboring plants, Exxon-Mobil, Goodyear, Lyondell-Citgo, Texas Petrochemicals, Rhodia, and Valero Energy.

- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) <http://www.southeastregionallepc.org>

Created by federal law in 1986, there are currently 18 LEPC's in Harris County. LEPC's focus on the development, training, and testing of local emergency response plans for hazardous materials incidents and educating local residents about what to do during a chemical release. A typical LEPC includes industry representatives, emergency responders, elected officials, schools and medical personnel, media and community residents. Each year the LEPC compiles a listing of all releases of hazardous chemicals from spills, upsets, and accidents. The LEPC for the Southeast region conducts monthly meetings for the public. Citizens can contact Joe Leonard for more information at 832-541-7349.

General Meetings are held at:
BAYWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
5100 GENOA RED BLUFF

Scheduled Meetings:

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2005
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2005
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2005
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2005

5) Environmental Health Situation for the Community

a) Community History

Southeast Houston is a community rich in history. Some of the neighborhoods located inside the community date as far back as the 1800's. In the early 20th century after many of the neighborhoods inside the southeast Houston area were built, Houston started to change from an agricultural and ranching economy to an industrial economy. The Houston Ship Channel was chosen as a primary industrial area for its open passage towards the Gulf of Mexico. The neighborhoods in the community started to change as well. The ranching life was substituted with the new job opportunities that the industries were offering. Many perceived the new emerging industrial era as a new development opportunity and as an economic benefit to the area. Although these positive aspects are still recognized today, industrialization has also brought health and environmental problems to the communities.

b) Environmental Health Risks

The community is vulnerable to emissions from the approximately 100 industrial sources along the Houston Ship Channel. Within the boundaries of Southeast Houston are 4 major industries, which according to the 2003 EPA Toxic Release Inventory have released to the air recognized carcinogens and toxicants that can cause birth defects. The community is also affected by air emissions from ships, three freeways that are used heavily by gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles, a railroad, and a major airport less than four miles away. Part of the community has also been subject to ground and water contamination from a 13-acre Superfund site.

Of the chemicals found in the community's air there are three chemicals that are of concern because of their short and long term health effects.

- **Benzene's** short term effects are drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, and reduced blood pressure. The long term effects include cancer, leukemia, anemia, damage to immune system, gene abnormalities, reproductive effects in women, and developmental effects in fetuses.
- **1,3-Butadiene** can cause irritation to eyes, nose, and throat on short term exposure. At longer term exposure it can cause cancer, birth defects, impaired fertility, kidney and liver disease, and permanent lung damage.
- **Styrene** is also known to cause health effects. Some of the most common short term effects included depression, concentration problems, muscular weakness, tiredness, and nausea; eye, nose, and throat irritation. Long term effects include cancer and leukemia.

The Environmental Defense website, www.scorecard.org, reports the recognized and suspected health effects of all the chemicals reported in the Toxics Release Inventory. The following releases from the 4 industrial facilities in the community are sorted by health effects and come from www.scorecard.org.

l) **GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER CO**

	Air Releases (Pounds from TRI sources)
Recognized Carcinogens	8,310
Suspected Carcinogens	269,936
Suspected Cardiovascular or Blood Toxicants	278,306
Recognized Developmental Toxicants	8,310
Suspected Developmental Toxicants	269,936
Suspected Endocrine Toxicants	269,936
Suspected Immunotoxicants	269,936
Suspected Kidney Toxicants	269,996

Suspected Gastrointestinal or Liver Toxicants	363,141
Suspected Neurotoxicants	363,141
Recognized Reproductive Toxicants	8,310
Suspected Reproductive Toxicants	354,771
Suspected Respiratory Toxicants	363,141
Suspected Skin or Sense Organ Toxicants	363,141

II) TEXAS PETROCHEMICALS L.P.

	Air Releases (Pounds from TRI sources)
Recognized Carcinogens	148,231
Suspected Carcinogens	29,005
Suspected Cardiovascular or Blood Toxicants	148,231
Recognized Developmental Toxicants	148,231
Suspected Developmental Toxicants	20,772
Suspected Endocrine Toxicants	2
Suspected Immunotoxicants	2
Suspected Kidney Toxicants	49,777
Suspected Gastrointestinal or Liver Toxicants	197,983
Suspected Neurotoxicants	198,129
Recognized Reproductive Toxicants	148,231
Suspected Reproductive Toxicants	10,582
Suspected Respiratory Toxicants	208,020
Suspected Skin or Sense Organ Toxicants	197,983

III) LYONDELL-CITGO REFINING L.P.

	Air Releases (Pounds from TRI sources)
Recognized Carcinogens	205,760
Suspected Carcinogens	39,846
Suspected Cardiovascular or Blood Toxicants	708,593
Recognized Developmental Toxicants	295,592
Suspected Developmental Toxicants	490,988
Suspected Endocrine Toxicants	202,309
Suspected Immunotoxicants	613,461
Suspected Kidney Toxicants	551,970
Suspected Gastrointestinal or Liver Toxicants	713,594
Suspected Neurotoxicants	910,303
Recognized Reproductive Toxicants	149,377
Suspected Reproductive Toxicants	606,274
Suspected Respiratory Toxicants	951,825
Suspected Skin or Sense Organ Toxicants	713,594

IV) EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL CO. HOUSTON OLEFINS PLANT

	Air Releases (Pounds from TRI sources)
Recognized Carcinogens	7,232
Suspected Carcinogens	800
Suspected Cardiovascular or Blood Toxicants	9,312
Recognized Developmental Toxicants	7,447
Suspected Developmental Toxicants	3,535
Suspected Endocrine Toxicants	6,760
Suspected Immunotoxicants	7,467
Suspected Kidney Toxicants	3,927

Suspected Gastrointestinal or Liver Toxicants	11,247
Suspected Neurotoxicants	57,937
Recognized Reproductive Toxicants	6,377
Suspected Reproductive Toxicants	3,100
Suspected Respiratory Toxicants	99,755
Suspected Skin or Sense Organ Toxicants	10,535

c) Monitoring Information

There are several different methods used by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Houston's Bureau of Air Quality Control to collect data on the concentrations of air toxics in southeast Houston. Of the approximately 43 state, city and privately run permanent monitoring sites around the Houston region, approximately 25 measure levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's). At these locations, 24-hour samples of air are taken every six days on a standard publicized schedule and analyzed for these chemicals. The closest stations to Southeast Houston that measure VOC's are at Milby Park and on Clinton Drive. Both are operated by TCEQ.

According to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality analysis of 2003 air quality data and the Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention analysis of 1997-2002 data, people living in Southeast Houston are at increased risk of contracting cancer because of toxic chemicals released by the area's industrial plants. The findings released indicated high levels of 1, 3-butadiene at the Milby Park monitor, which is located in the community and is used as a recreational space. Texas Petrochemicals, located across the bayou from Milby Park, released 148,000 pounds of 1, 3-butadiene, a chemical it sells to Goodyear for use in rubber production, according to the 2002 Toxics Release Inventory.

d) Cancer Cluster Investigation

In response to concerns regarding a possible excess of cancer, the Cancer Registry Division (CRD) of the Texas Department of Health initiated an investigation into the occurrence of cancer in zip codes 77017 (Harris County), Texas. They specifically evaluated the 1995–1999 incidence data and 1990–2000 mortality data for cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx, liver and intrahepatic bile duct, lung and bronchus, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, total leukemia, lymphocytic leukemia, myeloid leukemia, and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Incidence data are the best indicator of the occurrence of cancer in an area.

According to the study, during time period, incidence and mortality data showed a statistically significant elevation for myeloid leukemia cancer mortality in males and oral cavity and pharynx cancer mortality in females. AML was also investigated during the same time period for this zip code due to the elevated myeloid leukemia and found to be statistically significantly elevated for mortality among males. They also found that lung and bronchus, as well as brain cancer incidence in males was statistically significantly increased. Male lung and bronchus and leukemia cancer mortality was also elevated. Incidence and mortality data for cancers of the liver and intrahepatic bile duct, lung and bronchus, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, total leukemia, and lymphocytic leukemia were within expected ranges among males and females.

There is a need to develop research to examine the impacts of chemicals on the health of the citizens. Little is known about the links between personal exposure to chemicals and asthma, allergies, respiratory disease, learning disabilities, childhood development, gene abnormalities, fertility, the immune system, the endocrine system, and cancer. Studies have been done in other cities, yet only a few here in Houston. To understand the impact that industry and mobile sources are having on the health of Southeast Houston neighbors, more scientific research is needed.

6) Concerns of the community

a) Schools

Before Cesar E. Chavez High School the students were forced to go to schools in other communities. HISD developed the school after the community insisted that they needed a new high school. Furthermore, it had been a long time since anything new had been developed in the community. The community members are happy that their children are receiving an education in a nice school.

b) Quality of life

The following concerns have been gathered through the summary of 2002 Houston CAP Meeting's Dialogue, and various meetings with the City of Houston Citizens Assistance Office Community Liason, City Council representatives and community members.

Many in the community are at a daily struggle to have a better quality of life and feel abandoned by the City of Houston. They are concerned with the aesthetics of their neighborhoods and fear that if the community health and aesthetic standards become lower their property values will decline. Thus there will not only be less incentive to improve properties but also less local money because the neighborhoods will become poorer as middle class families move out and are replaced by lower income families.

Community members are concerned with the environmental quality, especially the air quality. They have reported strong odors in the past. One member mentioned that some of the children at the school where she works, have been sick on various occasions. Furthermore, some parents are afraid to let their kids play in their backyards because of possible air and ground contamination.

Air pollution from the industries, vehicle emissions, and diesel emissions have been mentioned as concerns in the Houston CAP meetings. In the same meetings the community members mentioned that the overall welfare, safety, environmental quality, and access to good schools, parks, and better sidewalks are at the top of their list. They would like the opportunity to lead a healthy, safe, and peaceful life while enjoying economic growth and educational advancement.

The residents are also concerned that the lack of enforcement of existing ordinances by the City has resulted in trash-filled lots from dumping, fire and health hazards in buildings, vacant and abandoned buildings being used by drug dealers, and illegal parking lots. They feel that the City officials are not enforcing city codes and homeowners must bear the burden and often the cost of spotting violations and reporting them. The industrial plants usually take the blame rather than the City for the image of the community.

The community is encouraging the industries to join in their efforts under way to improve the image of the southeast side of town by cleaning up their facilities and developing buffer zones between their facilities and their houses.

The community understands that air quality issues and other environmental and social problems can only be addressed by the responsible parties. The Southeast Community members agree that to improve their "Quality of Life" it is important that the city officials, industry representatives, and members from the community work together.