

October 15, 2024

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Dr. Cshanyse Allen, and I am the President of the Inner East Athens Neighborhood Association, Inc. I am writing to inform you of the significant and ongoing issues our community in District 3, East Athens, is facing due to the Heidelberg Materials Athens Quarry.

For several years, homeowners living near the quarry have reported severe structural damage to their properties. This includes, but is not limited to, sinking foundations, cracked floors, and damaged walls. Unfortunately, these issues, some of which date back to 2013 or earlier, have been consistently ignored despite repeated efforts by residents to seek help and resolution.

Our community members have filed claims through the proper channels, only to be met with constant obstacles. The previous insurance provider for the quarry was dropped, and the current company, Sedgwick, is refusing to accept new claims. This lack of responsibility and transparency is both alarming and unacceptable.

We request your support and prompt attention to address the damage resulting from the quarry's operations. It is our understanding that Athens Clarke County owns the property. Specifically, we are asking for the following:

1. Financial reimbursement for homeowners who have already covered repair costs due to damage caused by the quarry.
2. Financial assistance for those who currently have unresolved repairs to their homes or properties.
3. The establishment of a fund, managed by our nonprofit organization, to cover future repairs from any additional damage resulting from quarry activities in the East Athens area.

It is deeply concerning that a business with a known history of causing property damage has continued to operate in this manner. While we understand the quarry has been in operation for over 50 years, many of the affected homes have existed just as long. This area, one of the poorest in Athens, may have been specifically targeted for such operations, which raises further questions about fairness and equity.

We urgently request a response from Heidelberg Materials and would appreciate the attendance of one of their representatives at our upcoming town hall meeting on October 26th at 2 PM at East Friendship Baptist Church, 480 Arch Street, Athens, GA 30601. This will be our second town hall on this matter, and we hope to resolve the situation swiftly and amicably. We ask that the attending representative have the authority to address and resolve claims.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue affecting District 3. We look forward to your involvement and hope to work together toward a solution that benefits and protects our community.

Sincerely,

Cshanyse Allen

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