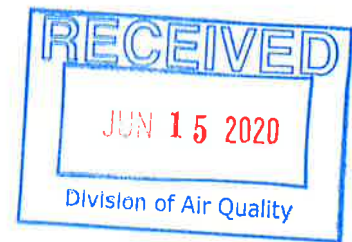


June 10, 2020

Division of Air Quality
State Street Commons, Suite 6A
100 W. Water Street
Dover, Delaware 19904



RE: Congo Funeral Home – Permit# APC-2020/0177 - CONSTRUCTION

I completed a review of the application submitted by Congo Funeral Home to construct a crematory located at their 100 N. Cleveland Avenue, Wilmington DE NCC facility. I am a homeowner located one block north of the proposed site.

As a homeowner, I am very concerned with the increased pace of cremations due to the **COVID-19** pandemic. The rise in cremation is likely to increase releases of chemicals from crematory smokestacks, especially mercury, a toxin that can harm the nervous, digestive and immune systems. Crematories can also emit particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide.

This community is a predominately African American neighborhood that has a high percentage of senior citizens that are helping to raise grand and great grandchildren. To that end, the community includes Hope House Knowledge Center, a comprehensive daycare and preschool center, servicing families in need of child care. Hope House achieved a 5 Star rating certified by Delaware Stars for Early Success, Delaware Quality Rating and Improvement System located one block east of the proposed site. In addition, Toddlers Tech another childcare facility is located 2 blocks North of the proposed site. In addition, Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation facility is located 4 blocks North of the proposed site.

Congo Funeral Home is an African American owned and operated business and the African American community has been hard-hit by the coronavirus deaths. Therefore, I am extremely concerned that this will add to the already high percentage of deaths in the African American community.

Therefore, I am requesting a public hearing be held regarding this application.

Sincerely
Carmen Thomas

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the printed name.

L&J Homestead LLC
248.860.1809