



Summary of Crematory Rule Workshop Held May 9, 2007

Number of Attendees 26

Public Comments at Workshop

- **Linda Saul-Sena, City of Tampa, Councilwoman–**
 - Stated her desire to address crematory locations, and to listen and take back information to City Council; to find out if zoning can be used to separate incompatible land uses from residential and particularly a national landmark/historic area.
- **Equipment Manufacturer–**
 - Questioned using temperature as an indicator of opacity.
 - Suggested oxygen is better indicator unit is running properly with no smoke. Something can be broken in the machine but it still can be at the right temperature.
 - Recommended better training.
 - Opacity alarm would be good to have in primary chamber and most operators have it already.
- **Citizen–**
 - Will soon live four blocks away from proposed crematory which is on edge of historic district.
 - *Stated:* Crematory has no place in mixed residential area, adjacent to a historic area.
- **President, East Ybor Historic and Civic Association–**
 - View of the Historic and Civic Association is to protect the historic area; other crematories in the city are not affecting them. Stated there is no special process for crematories to go through. One permitted on 26th Street and one on 7th Avenue, which are 1.1 miles from each other. Stated the Port has fumes from everywhere.
 - *Stated:* We are fortunate to have a port business that puts Tampa on the map for industry and commerce, but with that success comes health issues that concern our members and residents. Because of the industry, commerce, and traffic associated with the Port of Tampa, Interstate-4, the Leroy Selmon Expressway, semi-truck traffic on 21st and 22nd Streets (to be transferred to the Connector), Wheelabrator McKay Bay Waste to Energy Incinerator, Marathon and other

petroleum companies (future ethanol), a sewage plant at 25th Street and 3rd Avenue, a cement and rock crushing business on 26th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, Mosaic Industries (merger of IMC and Cargill) and Tampa Ship Repair - we in East Ybor encounter fumes daily from petroleum, phosphate, nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizer, diesel exhaust, potash, sulfur, sulfuric acid, anhydrous ammonia, pesticides, cement dust, and paint/metal dust from sandblasting huge freighters.

- *Stated:* Like crematories, the EPC states that if all these businesses are run correctly, we should not suffer any respiratory problems or drop in air quality. Just because zoning allows - we object to air permits for crematories or any other business that will further compromise the noxious odors that we breathe in our neighborhoods.
- *Stated:* Davis Island, Harbour Island, Channelside, Downtown, and Palmetto Beach are also affected.
- *Stated:* Air quality is a priority that our members believe in and is a priority we must continue to seek. All this is happening in our "economically disadvantaged" neighborhood but affects a lot of citizens.
- *Stated:* Have written letters to Governor, EPA, US Dept of Interior- all say it is local city zoning and land use issue. Construction Dept said crematory on 26th Street is not an approved site.
- *Stated:* Eight crematories, problem is two within 1.1 mile away from each other.
- *Stated:* Florida Mortuary was just cited for violation. Until this issue came about no one noticed.
- *Stated:* Poor people and residents in the neighborhood don't know where to go and feel situation is hopeless.
- *Stated:* Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners are the EPC. We will take to them and City Council to get land use changed. Understand crematories apply where zoning allows. Industrial zoned areas are West of 22nd near Marriott, Davis Island and Harbour Island but they come to an economically disadvantaged area because no one will speak up.
- *Stated:* Temple Terrace crematory is not a conflict with us. Putting two crematories 1.1 mile away from each other in conjunction with everything else they are suffering is the issue. It is an economically minority area and people are scared- it is why I speak up for them. Problem is not with crematories in general but with two being put one mile apart in combination with other issues in the area. How can they say it is not a threat to our air quality?
- **Citizen-**
 - Lives 1.5 blocks from proposed crematory on 26th Street. Stated her mother has lived in the neighborhood all her life and has chronic lung disease.
 - *Stated:* I just returned to area and she is now suffering from all the pollution in the neighborhood- particularly the new cement crushing business between 4th and 5th on 26th.
- **Citizen-**
 - Appreciates EPC putting this meeting on, but feels like the meeting is a smoke screen.

- *Stated:* I read up on particulate matter (PM). PM from crematories is the worst kind by the size, goes deep into lungs and causes the most harm.
- *Stated:* I painted my house six months ago and now the eves are completely black. We need to monitor what crematories are putting out; we also need to monitor the existing quality of air before any of that is ever considered. The air is really bad. My wife has COPD, emphysema and arterial disease. It is not right for a company to put out enough smoke to possibly cause harm.
- *Stated:* When does it get to the point where enough is enough? Appreciate the workshop but think it is to pacify us. Crematory should not be in residential area. Five or six minutes of smoke is a long time, especially if it is blowing in my direction.
- **Equipment Manufacturer–**
 - Came here to the meeting to learn. Sympathize with residents who are faced with the area of the city where they live, many pollutants around here.
 - *Stated:* Our crematory has been in operation since July of 1998. Over 2600 cremations during that time.
 - Supports smoke standards that this Board should implement. Staff training should be required. All of his crematory operators are State certified and State regulated. Operates crematory 7 days a week with licensed individuals.
 - *Stated:* Crematories should have reasonable set backs- 600 ft is unreasonable; 60-100 ft is acceptable.
 - *Stated:* Crematories have a viewing window where the cremation can be witnessed. Will smoke once in a great while. States their emissions are minimal compared to what Ybor City is faced with from traffic, ships and other issues.
 - *Stated:* I invite the Board and other citizens to come out to our crematory. Breakdown is in the education. It is not as big and bad as everyone thinks.
- **President, East Ybor Historic and Civic Association–**
 - *Stated:* It is not the “creep” factor. The paper said each smoke stack shoots up approximately 5 tons of dust into the sky per year. Bay News 9 reported occasionally smelling emissions coming from the building where cremations take place.
 - *Stated:* For the crematory cited on Nebraska, they bought it in 1990 and it hadn't been serviced or checked. One person says when they are burning it is nauseous.
 - *Stated:* How do the poor people of this area know if it is working properly?
- **Industry Representative-**
 - Equipment should be serviced annually or semi-annually, training should be required also.
- **Citizen-**
 - *Stated:* How can you accurately measure if they are operating properly if you are not taking into consideration particulate matter or carbon monoxide? Because State took away rule, can you impose requirements?
- **President, East Ybor Historic and Civic Association-**
 - *Stated:* We do not have money to hire consultants or attorneys to file protest. When complaints come in, what are they complaining about? What constitutes a complaint from public?
- **Equipment Manufacturer-**

- *Stated:* As a manufacturer we don't want to produce equipment that is going to create a problem. Last thing we need to do is to create a problem for our customers.
- *Stated:* The State has decided that crematories are a nominal source and do not create a problem so they have gone to a general permit process, that means they don't have to post or give public notice. As long as it is zoned properly, the equipment can go in. The County is faced with a situation that has changed. Previously, permits required public meeting to be held to determine whether it is going to create a problem.
- *Stated:* As a manufacturer we don't care what the State or County does because we still have to test our equipment. We put our equipment in every State and in foreign countries and we have to comply with those regulations. Some regulations are severe, others are lenient. We sell across the world so we must test our equipment to prove and document that it is safe and can be operated properly.
- **President, East Ybor Historic and Civic Association-**
 - *Stated:* The issue is not with cremation and responsible business owners. Our issue is with local officials. The issue is with deregulated rules that allowed two crematory permits to get by within 1 mile of each other, close to a historic district where there are other issues in the City. They should consider the pollution on the residents.
 - *Stated:* The Association is not against crematories or the machinery. We want them operated properly, and there should not be two 1 mile from each other.
 - *Stated:* There are plenty of places that are industrially zoned where they can be located that are not next to a historic district, where we have all the other respiratory problems in the Port.
- **Equipment Manufacturer-**
 - Operator training should be done. The more knowledge an operator has the more ability they have to solve any problems.
 - *Stated:* State and Federal government has tested units all over the country. The EPA and Cremation Association of North America (CANA) did \$300,000 test to determine what comes out of a crematory stack. People used to think the hotter, the better. They found out that emissions from a crematory are minimal.
 - *Stated:* There are emotional issues with this also- people don't want it in their backyard. I want people to know that crematories are nominal sources. More emissions come from cars and fireplaces.
- **Equipment Manufacturer-**
 - Training is most important. Training is best way to inform operators how to operate the equipment and teach them the rule and why they do certain things.
 - *Stated:* Worst thing they did at State level was to remove training requirement. In a year, I worked on 60 or 70 crematory projects and when they are trained there is never an issue with odor or smoke.
 - *Stated:* I would rather have a crematory next to my house instead of an aggregate facility which creates a lot of dust.
- **Equipment Manufacturer-**
 - *Stated:* As long as you have a sufficient oxygen level, and if it doesn't cool the unit, you shouldn't see any smoke.

- **Equipment Manufacturer-**
 - *Stated:* During a stack test, when they run clean, the oxygen levels are around 10-14% and the CO levels are under 10 parts per million, particulate level is .02-.08; they run that clean.
 - *Stated:* Opacity sensor helps a lot but operator training is the most important.
 - *Stated:* Need to also consider cost to the facility. Texas requires oxygen monitors but most operators don't have sophistication to calibrate the system.

- **Equipment Manufacturer-**
 - *Stated:* If the machine has enough air in the system, you may get 15% opacity for a moment, but if run properly, it will not smoke. Operators will tell you when the machine is very hot, it will burn very fast and overwhelm the amount of air you have to combust in the unit.
 - *Stated:* Maybe put operational requirements, like after so many cremations you have to cool down your system. Some vendors already recommend that.

- **Citizen-**
 - *Stated:* Two areas have stopped having crematories placed in their general area. How did we get two crematories in our area?

- **Citizen-**
 - *Stated:* I live in Tampa Heights and I was going to be 15 feet away from the crematory.
 - *Stated:* Neighbors are the best eyes. What are the penalties on these facilities when they mess up?

- **Citizen-**
 - *Stated:* The other issue is what you are burning like body bags, veneer or particle board. It makes the cremation unit burn hotter and it will produce some smoke. The temperature goes up and there is not enough oxygen to handle the combustion.

- **Planning and Growth Management Division Representative-**
 - Some issues can be handled through Planning and Growth Management through the Land Development Code amendment. Ybor is located in the City.
 - *Stated:* I have notes to take back to PGMD. They include: separation buffer, increased set-backs, requiring contact number be posted.
 - This may be able to be a joint venture between City and County. She will attend all hearings.

- **Citizen-**
 - *Stated:* From the standpoint of land use and zoning, do they have to get permits?
 - *Stated:* It is not just the crematorium but the brick crushing, don't they have to get business permits?

- **Citizen-**
 - *Stated:* I don't think a crematory is appropriate in this area. I live 6 blocks from the proposed crematory.

Written Comments Submitted

- **President, East Ybor Historic and Civic Association-**
 - The plight of the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc. is to discourage two "air permitted" crematories from opening for business in our neighborhood. One at 1401 N. 26th Street and the other at 3822 E. 7th Avenue in Ybor City. Our Association would be happy to attend any workshops or meetings that have been requested by City Councilwoman Linda Saul-Sena and County Commissioner Rose Ferlita. There was an article in the Tampa Tribune that gave a different view from that of our Board or Members. It WAS, IS, and WILL always be about the quality of the air we breathe, particulate matter being emitted into the air, and mercury and carbon monoxide poisoning and air pollution in general. There is an EPC Meeting - Wednesday - May 9, 2007, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. - at The Children's Board at 1002 East Palm Avenue. We are fortunate to have a port business that puts Tampa on the map for industry and commerce but with that success comes health issues that concern our members and residents. Please read further for information from the Tampa Port Authority. The Port of Tampa's main industry segments are petroleum at 38 percent, fertilizer at 37 percent (the fertilizer industry includes outbound phosphate and fertilizer, as well as inbound sulfur, sulfuric acid and anhydrous ammonia), coal at 10 percent and building materials at 8 percent. Shipments of inbound refined petroleum and related products exceeded 19 million tons in 2005. This industry has grown steadily in recent years, and as Florida's population continues to increase, so will petroleum shipments through the Port of Tampa. In 2005, the petroleum industry surpassed the phosphate industry as the largest port cargo industry segment. All of the aviation jet fuel for the Tampa and Orlando airports and MacDill Air Force Base moves through the Port of Tampa. The largest component of the fertilizer industry segment is outbound shipments of phosphate rock and fertilizer. The industry has gone through significant consolidation, as illustrated by the recent merger of Cargill and IMC into MOSAIC. Even with the market consolidation, central Florida remains the phosphate capital of the world. Tampa is also gaining notoriety as one of the most important cement ports in the United States. The most recent addition was Titan America's new terminal at Hooker's Point. Because of the industry, commerce, and traffic associated with the Port of Tampa, Interstate-4, the Leroy Selmon Expressway, semi truck traffic on 21st and 22nd Streets, (to be transferred to the Connector), Wheelabrator McKay Bay Waste to Energy Incinerator, Marathon and other petroleum companies (future Ethanol), sewage plant at 25th Street and 3rd Avenue, a cement and rock crushing business on 26th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues, Mosaic Industries (merger of IMC and Cargill) and Tampa Ship Repair - we in East Ybor encounter fumes daily from petroleum, phosphate, nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizer, diesel exhaust, potash, sulfur, sulfuric acid, anhydrous ammonia, pesticides, cement dust, and paint/metal dust from sandblasting huge freighters. Like crematories, the EPC states that if all these businesses are run correctly - we should not suffer any respiratory problems or drop in air quality. Just because zoning allows - we object to air permits for crematories or any other business that will further

compromise the noxious odors that we breathe in our neighborhoods. Davis Island, Harbour Island, Channelside and Downtown are also effected. Air quality is a priority that our members believe in and is a priority we must continue to seek. All this is happening in our "economically disadvantaged" neighborhood but effects a lot more citizens. All recipients of this email are encouraged to spread the word to your family and friends and to attend this Wednesday's meeting on May 9, at 6:00 at the Children's Board sponsored by the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County.

- **Citizen-**

- A recent cement crushing business on North 26th Street and North 27th Street between East 4th Avenue and East 5th Avenue creates heavy, thick dust and fine dust on top of the crematories in our neighborhood. This is one block north of the new crematory in East Historic Ybor on North 26th Street. So this is only another source of pollution to our neighborhood. Particulate matter is a fine dust that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and is a cause of severe COPD and Reactive Airway Disease and is our biggest concern. Mercury is another big concern.

- **Historic Ybor Neighborhood Civic Association-**

- As the number of people choosing cremation increase so will the number of crematories. Neighbors are growing more sensitive to emissions in their neighborhoods. The EPC should set a buffer to protect residents from even the slightest of emissions. A 500-1000 ft. buffer is a good distance to make people "feel" comfortable living near to these facilities. All current facilities which are in operation should be exempt from new rules. Ybor is overrun with industry which pollutes the air, 18 wheelers, etc. No more!

- **Hillsborough County Health Department Representative-**

- Need for: Training (initial certification and ongoing); Service of equipment (recommended by manufactures); Continual opacity monitor; Public notice; Testing for CO and PM (start up and ongoing frequency TBD); Study of air setback based on multiple emission sources within an area; Increase routine inspection frequency (TBD).

- **Citizen-**

- Crematories should be located no less than 2 miles from the nearest residence. Our homes are where we live, raise our children, and foster our hopes and dreams for the future. It is extremely inappropriate to place a crematory facility near a residence, just as it is inappropriate to place an X-rated adult movie establishment near a church. Allow for due process by requiring "public point of entry" which would include mandatory notification and an opportunity for public comment. Require operators to be trained and certified at the maximum level. Require not only visible emissions testing, but also testing for ALL crematory emissions. Following only the MINIMUM state or national guidelines will not ensure that you are protecting the air we breathe. Therefore, establish and enforce the strictest possible standards for permitting, regulating, testing, and monitoring crematories and their emissions using the most technologically advanced equipment available.

EPC Staff Comments /Actions

- Clarified the rulemaking process and necessary requirements to challenge a permit.
- Advised attendees that crematories are inspected every 5 years and in response to all complaints.
- Displayed a chart of crematory rule comparisons based on staff survey.
- Committed to sharing the results of a cumulative impact study with the public.
- Briefly explained the enforcement process, as it currently applies to crematories.
- Committed to increasing public outreach efforts.
- Committed to providing all attendees a summary of the meeting.
- Committed to meeting with the East Ybor Historic and Civic Association to discuss air emissions from the Port.