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In consideration of allocating any funding to address the Commerce City Suncor monitoring of air quality, there are some points that should be noted regarding the current considerations that have been made public from the Town of Commerce City. The issue of low cost seems to be the major point that is made which I believe has been seen in other towns and even other fossil fuel emitters who feel that the cheap cost will at least make the operator appear to be producing accurate and useful results. As a retired medical researcher with a bachelor degree in laboratory medicine, I can assure you that laboratory analysis of air, soil, water (though not sourced from the human body) should always be performed with the highest precision and accuracy. IN not doing so, the act of executing the testing could result in erroneous results.

Thus it would be a waste of time, energy and money. It appears that the submitted plan is a foot in the door to a more permanent cost to the city, which seems quite self-serving and inappropriate. The words, "initial pilot program" among other comments that were in the packet presentation appear to set a foundation for an ongoing contract that is not the intention of this endeavor. If the goal is to actually discover what is in the air that is the potential causation for the multitude of health issues of citizens who live in proximity to the Suncor facility, a four season measurement of the air would demonstrate the needed result. It would need to be a continuous monitoring system with regular controls and most of all, set high-quality standard readings to assure absolute accuracy. As far as online reporting, it would need to be a live reporting for public access that is presented within the hour of the sample collection. This allows for ongoing transparency to the citizens and could serve as a way to respond to specific spike incidents of which Suncor has had its fair share.

The goal should be to actually decrease the output of toxic chemicals that currently seem to be the controversy in this entire situation. Simply by setting an ongoing contract to show that the area is harmful to health is an objectionable goal as I believe that has already been proven. And finally, the issue of suggesting providing air filters and purifiers to homes is not considered a viable solution to the source of the problem. In fact, it is furthermore an admission that there is a common awareness that the air is being polluted thus it is dangerous and inappropriate for human inhalation. Weatherization improvements are an insult to the entire project as it is irrelevant to the source project that is the ongoing pernicious issue of noxious air in the area. The suggestion to plant trees ranks with the theory of a total disconnect and distraction of the primary problem of toxic fumes from the source. In my opinion, this appears to be some level of bribery or reparation to the citizens that allows ongoing ignoring of the source of the entire problem.

To close, it is inappropriate to have the suggestion that this will be an ongoing "forever" project in which funding from Commerce City will be "leveraged". It is not the appropriate decision to use any organization that will suggest a cheap solution as the primary goal when it is clear the longstanding goal is future "leveraged" contracts. Commerce City needs permanent solutions that are comprehensively and accurately measured; and then, take effective action to dramatically assure reduction of the pollution at its source to achieve a safer and healthier community. Temporary incentives should never be a part of a real scientific approach to truly improving the community.