

January 30, 2002

Erin Crotty, Commissioner  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-1500

Dear Commissioner Crotty,

My name is Randal Thomas and I have been residing at the 141-2 Third Street for **sixteen** years. During the year 2001, there was both a demolition and construction project at 50 North Lark Street. As a result, my family and I have been overwhelmed with health problems and property damage.

The building which was then the Arbor Hill Community Center contained asbestos/lead. **Absolutely** no effort was made to educate the residents on safety, health and related issues. The flow of contaminated dust was not contained to the site of construction; this resulted in dust particles settling in homes, on cars and possibly in the lungs of residents. This caused much hardship, ill-health and inconvenience for me and my family.

The pounding of the heavy equipment driving foundation supports into the ground has caused cracks in the ceiling and door facings to become unaligned. At the present time if any one enters the attic, a dust mask is needed to avoid choking on the arid dust.

The City of Albany has sent a crew who inspected the damage and performed a band-aid job of adjusting the catch for the lock on the door facing. As a result the door is now closed at an angle (top in, bottom out). The City has also washed down the front of the homes but the dust still lingers. There has been no testing of the air quality or the soil and yet this has been ongoing since April of 2001.

Our health has been ruined, our property has been damaged. Those who are responsible for the environmental injustice bestowed on this community should be held accountable. There have been numerous attempts to rectify this situation with the Common Council of Albany and City of Albany Officials, but our pleas continue to fall on deaf ears..... **we are just ignored.** We demand the right to clean air and a healthy living environment.

Sincerely,



Randal Thomas  
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Albany, NY 12210  
518-276-6774