

## Amy Harvey

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**From:** Edward Marshall <edward.marshall@duke.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 08, 2023 6:35 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Cc:** Amy Harvey  
**Subject:** Remove All Coal Ash Before Building Anything at 828 MLK Blvd.  
**Attachments:** E.Marshall.Statement.828.MLK3-8-23.docx

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Dear Mayor Hemminger and Town Council,

Due to recent knee replacement surgery, I was not able to attend this evening's meeting on 828 MLK. So I am sending you what I was going to say, for the record.

Thank you,

*Edward*

Edward M. Marshall, Ph.D., PCC  
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***Safe Housing for Chapel Hill***  
***Everyone Deserves a Safe Place to Live***

**Comments to the Chapel Hill Town Council, March 8, 2023**

**By Dr. Edward Marshall Regarding the Town's Plans to Build at 828 MLK Blvd.**

Dr. Edward Marshall of *Safe Housing for Chapel Hill* is home recovering from knee replacement surgery and asked me to read this statement:

We have tried to be rational and reasonable with reports, letters, petitions and public testimony

**But you don't listen**

We've done the research for free, produced a detailed, science-based report

**But you wouldn't even read it or listen**

We engaged the nation's top 3 coal ash scientists who confirmed the public health and safety hazards of coal ash's toxic metals

**But after asking the Mayor 3 times for a public hearing with the real scientists, you chose to not listen to the REAL science**

We worked with Dr. Avner Vengosh of the Nicholas School for the Environment at Duke who took soil samples at the 828 site and found 19 toxic metals in this soil, including arsenic, mercury, lead, and more

**BUT YOU WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO THEM**

200 people signed a petition to remove the coal ash and listen to the scientists, endorsed unanimously by the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board in December and presented to you in January,

**But you still won't listen!**

This is a reckless disregard for the truth—when you won't even listen to the scientific facts.

And when anyone disagrees with you, you call them names or shame them

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! REMOVE THE COAL ASH—ALL 60,000 TOXIC TONS OF IT**

Then build whatever you want. Thank you, and hopefully you listened.

Here are some talking points:

- Coal ash has been proven to have 35 toxic metals in it, each one capable of causing cancer or serious illness, and even death
- Dr. Avner Vengosh of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke, and colleagues at Appalachian State found 19 toxic metals at 828 MLK in soil samples taken last July, 2022
- Dr. Vengosh has also said that the Town is ill-informed on the health hazards of coal ash and is making this decision blindly
- After 4 request of the Mayor, the top 3 coal ash scientists in the nation have not yet been heard--the Council has NOT listened to the science
- The Town's own consultants have said that the coal ash at 828 would be dangerous and a risk to any construction workers at this site
- We are not against housing or a municipal center--but you must first remove all the coal ash
- The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board voted unanimously on a petition signed by 200 people to not proceed until the scientists have been heard and the coal ash is removed

In sum:

- Listen to the nation's top coal ash scientists before proceeding
- Remove all the coal ash before any construction
- Listen to the people who have been ignored as the Council does what it wants
- Protect our health and safety first