

Baltimore City Public Safety Committee,

My name is Terriq Thompson and I am a Curtis Bay resident. Following the coal explosion in Dec 2021 I waited for answers from State, local and company officials regarding the cause of the disaster and the likelihood of future explosions taking place. I have already experienced multiple industrial fires, explosions and chemical leaks that have led to the lock down of my high school and raise major concerns about the safety of my community.

I am writing to share my email correspondence to CSX which attempted to get answers to my fundamental concerns. I am writing to report that a month after reaching out to CSX, i have received no reply whatsoever...not even a confirmation or a courtest reply. This silence speaks volumes to me and I think it should to you as well at City Council.

Given the magnitude of the explosion, the party responsible should feel an obligation to engage with concerned residents who were directly impacted. Our house shook and felt like a truck hit it. I know a large amount of coal dust entered the community during the explosion and does so on a regular basis.

We cannot claim that our community is safe following an explosion of this scale and given the everyday poor air quality from the concentration of polluting industries within a mile of our homes. We cannot claim to be safe when the company responsible for the explosion will not even reply to questions about the cause of the explosion. How do we create a safe and healthy community under these conditions where, quite honestly, it feels as if the community is not even a consideration for CSX. It is as if we do not exist along with any regard for the air we breathe, the homes we live in, or the parks we play in.

I ask that this committee be honest and direct and not make any claims about the safety of this community given the dynamic that currently exists whereby residents' attempts to get basic information in order to make informed decision (do i continue to choose to live here or not) are ignored. How can we possibly expect to feel safe with a neighbor who behaves this way?

We are trying to build a community that is stable, healthy and has opportunity for all but with actors like CSX who have the ability, literally to explode and send toxic dust all throughout our neighborhood and then just ignore us...it really feels impossible and is certainly denigrating on every level. No one deserves treatment like this.

No community should live in fear and question whether it is safe to go to our rec center because the coal pile 1000 ft away might explode...or be worried that the black dust on the playground equipment is going to make us sick. There are alternatives to exporting coal this close to a park. Period. Other materials could be transported profitably that would not present the explosion or toxic pollution risk of coal. CSX will not make the choice to transition to another material on its own and this is where the role of our City Council comes in.

We need this generation of council leaders to step up and address this issue and work towards a solution that prevents what is now a known threat 1,000 ft from where kids play everyday. The threat of a coal explosion has always been a concern but now it is a reality we have all experienced. The coal terminal, in addition to being located next to a rec center, is also located near gas and oil tank farms. Please, do not ignore the danger this all presents to our community and do not miss the opportunity to

lead on this issue by starting the process of ending the practice of handling highly combustible coal so close to a community.

Sincerely,

Terriq Thompson

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Terriq Vkt**

Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 11:22 AM

Subject: Community Safety

To: CSX

Dear CSX,

I am writing to you as a resident in the Curtis Bay community. I graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School and am committed to helping make my community a healthier and better place.

I am writing to you regarding the explosion that took place at the CSX Coal Pier on December 30th 2021 across the street from the Rec Center and community park. I felt the force of the explosion at my house and was terrified. I have read news articles and attended community meetings where I have repeatedly heard that the cause of the explosion is still being investigated. I am writing with a related but different question that is very important to me.

**My question is, can you make a promise to me that your coal facility will never explode again, (of course excluding external forces outside of CSX's control) ? I am not asking if you will take all required precautions to reduce the risk of future explosions. I am asking if you can commit to stating that the facility will not explode again. If the answer is "yes", then please explain how you can make this commitment. If the answer is "no", then please explain why as well.**

I am asking you this because it is it important for me to know, given the size of the facility and the force of the recent explosion within close proximity to where I live to have a better understanding of the inherent risk that a coal terminal of this scale presents to myself and nearby residents regardless of best practices taken to reduce those risks.