

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday May 13, 2022 8:00 AM

Contact: Janie Cisneros, Singleton United/Unidos, [singletonunited75212@gmail.com](mailto:singletonunited75212@gmail.com), phone: 214-708-0990

## **W. Dallas Neighborhood Report Cites Decades-Long Neglect and Abuse; Demands City Shut Down GAF's Asphalt Shingle Factory**

***Residents make detailed case for getting rid of GAF - as well as why the City of Dallas should lead the charge***

Dallas, TX — Citing over 40 years of intentional environmental and land-use abuses at the GAF asphalt shingle factory, West Dallas neighborhood group Singleton United/Unidos released a scathing 100-page report and equally long online regulatory timeline to document why the group wants the City to immediately begin the process to shut GAF down as a public health threat.

A product of about 6 months of research, “[\*\*GAF's GOTTA GO: THE CASE FOR CITY AMORTIZATION\*\*](#)” concludes **the City of Dallas is complicit in ignoring GAF Corporation's violation of the City's own zoning policies, as well as its public health and safety impacts on West Dallas residents.** It methodically examines the ways the current operation of the shingle factory meets most, if not all, of the factors used by the City of Dallas to “amortize” a business out of existence. This is the same process the City used to shut down the **RSR lead smelter** in West Dallas as well as two other lead smelters in East Oak Cliff in the 1980's.

Information on the environmental impacts came from **examining approximately 3,000 pages of files** collected from the City of Dallas, the State of Texas and the Environmental Protection Agency. Critical findings from those files have been laid out by the group in a [first-ever online timeline on its Website](#) using the documents themselves.

Among the most alarming findings:

**GAF has been a “non-conforming use” in West Dallas since the mid-1980's, meaning it hasn't had the correct zoning in almost 40 years.**

West Dallas air monitors show **levels of Particulate Matter pollution comparable to the top five most polluted cities in America** as reported by the American Lung Association.

**GAF has violated the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter, Volatile Organic Compounds, Sulfur Dioxide, and Nitrogen Oxide** at one time or another over the last 40 years.

**GAF intentionally sought to avoid public hearings** about permit changes at the factory.

Amortization can be initiated by the City itself or any Dallas resident that can pay the \$1,000 filing fee. **On Monday, Singleton United/Unidos sent District 6 Council Member Omar Narvaez a preview copy of the report and asked that he initiate the compliance process leading to the amortization to close GAF.** Narvaez has confirmed receipt of the report.

(continued)

*“Councilman Narvaez told us that he would “be our gladiator” on this issue earlier this year. We’ve done everything he’s asked of us to prepare the information needed for the City to act. We hope he stays true to his promise,”* said West Dallas resident **Janie Cisneros**, a leader of Singleton United/Unidos.

*“Unfortunately **the City has often been just as guilty as GAF in allowing a harmful, non-conforming use to continue operating** decades after since the zoning changed. It’s time the City right this wrong and initiate amortization proceedings of GAF.”*

Cisneros was joined in her call by a broad citywide assembly of groups under the title of the GAF’S GOTTA GO/GAF VETE YA campaign that includes 23 different groups - from the Texas Organizing Project, to Climate Reality, to Readers 2 Leaders. It resembles the same coalition that won the clean-up of Shingle Mountain in 2021. But it also includes newcomers among West Dallas residents who see hope for cleaner air.

Ruby Ross has lived across the street from GAF all her adult life. *“To know that we are as close as we have ever been to getting GAF out of the community, is amazing. I can’t wait for it to be gone and for our neighborhood to replace it with something positive for the community.”*

To signal the beginning of what they hope will be the end, the GAF’S GOTTA GO/GAF VETE YA campaign is sponsoring a **community celebration** called **“So Long, GAF: Help us say goodbye to Dallas’ worst polluter”** at the **West Dallas Multipurpose Center on Tuesday May 17th**. There will be food, entertainment, and speakers, all free of charge. Members of the public are invited and can [register for the event here](#).

If Narvaez agrees to lead the fight, his next step would be to persuade the City Council to initiate compliance proceedings for GAF through the City’s Board of Adjustment. Once the compliance proceeding is scheduled at the Board of Adjustment, the City will have to prove the adverse impact that GAF causes to the community. This is what the Singleton United/Unidos report documents.

*“If you look at the kind of evidence the City of Dallas has used to put other public nuisances out of business, there’s more than enough in GAF’s public record to demand its compliance with the law,”* said **Eveyn Mayo**, Paul Quinn College’s Urban Research Initiative Fellow and Chair of Downwinders at Risk. *“In fact, the issues of pervasive toxic pollution make it imperative the City follow its own rules here as soon as possible.”*

Should Narvaez decline to help the neighborhood, Cisneros and her group are willing to file the amortization paperwork themselves. *“This is long overdue. There’s no going back now that we know all of this information. We’ve got to move now and GAF absolutely must go.”*

Click here to view the full report or reach out to [singletonunited75212@gmail.com](mailto:singletonunited75212@gmail.com) if you have any questions, and register for the event Tuesday May 17 here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/so-long-gaf-help-us-say-goodbye-to-dallas-worst-polluter-tickets-338659368287>

###