

Ideas into Action Meeting

June 13, 2017

Observer: Barbara Griffin (notes from meeting primarily summarized by Jessica Hardesty Norris)

Environmental Justice – Meeting Summary

Meeting addressed activities of two local groups that are addressing environmental justice. Some of the issues explored:

- Which neighborhoods in Charleston have the highest pollution loads and why?
- How do zoning and historic land uses affect modern Charleston neighborhoods?
- Which have more and less access to green or open space?
- Where is it hard to find fresh produce?

Omar Mohammed, from the Charleston Community Research to Action Board, focused on environmental and health concerns in seven Environmental Justice communities in North Charleston. He began by explaining how their approach is an example of Asset Based Community Development. For example, for the independent air and soil quality research done under CCRA, lead researchers not only collect data and leave, they work closely with CCRA to develop solutions. Mr. Mohammed described his team's citizen science efforts to document the contaminant loads and the multiple papers they have published based on that work. Mr. Mohammed's presentation is attached.

Donations to support this work can be made to the funds at the [Coastal Community Foundation](#) using codes for LAMC. Contact Keisha at CCF, who manages the funds - 723-3635 regarding any questions.

Germaine Jenkins: Germaine Jenkins of Fresh Future Farm shared her personal story and experience with food insecurity to explain why she works to provide fresh local produce in her neighborhood, where the nearest grocery stores are over 2 miles away. She shared the evolution of her work from a garden in her yard to a thriving urban farm and grocery.

Meeting attendees contributed enough money (\$881) to send the last five of 25 children to summer camp at [Fresh Future Farm](#)!

The EPA defines Environmental Justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.