

**A RESOLUTION RECEIVING A REPORT FROM REV. ROBERT CAMPBELL
ON THE WATER SURVEY DONE IN THE ROGERS ROAD COMMUNITY
Resolution No. 75/2009-10**

WHEREAS, Rev. Campbell came before the Carrboro of Aldermen on December 8th 2009 to present the results of a water survey that was done in the summer of 2009; and

WHEREAS, this survey was designed by and conducted by the Rogers Road Neighborhood Association, the Coalition to End Environmental Racism and Engineers Without Borders; and

WHEREAS, the group has the results of the survey to share with all local governments.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CARRBORO MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Board hereby accepts the report and refers it to the Rogers Road Water/Sewer Work Group.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Minister Robert L. Campbell
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Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association - RENA
Coalition to End Environmental Racism - CEER
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<http://rogersroad.wordpress.com>

October 20, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) in Orange County, NC, I write to request your assistance regarding serious contamination in our community's drinking and surface water supplies. We have previously communicated with you about these issues through public comments and through participation in local government task forces. We are writing to request approximately 15 minutes during one of your upcoming public meetings to present findings to you on contamination of drinking and surface water supplies in our community.

For 37 years, we have raised concerns about the proximity of the landfills, the safety of our drinking and surface water supplies, and the adequacy of our sewage disposal systems. Recently, with the help of researchers from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and several other organizations, we conducted an initial investigation into the safety of our drinking and surface water and our sewage disposal systems. What we found confirmed our concerns.

First, we found that some drinking water samples exceeded EPA standards for *E. coli* and fecal coliforms, and that turbidity levels for the community's drinking water far exceeded EPA standards. These numbers shed serious doubt on the safety of our community's drinking water. Second, there was substantial evidence that the septic systems for certain homes are failing. Since many residents get their water from private wells, this is a health hazard. Third, we observed violations of Clean Water Act guidelines for fecal coliforms (200 CFU/100ml), *E. coli* (126 CFU/100ml), and *Enterococcus* (33 CFU/100ml) at 10 recreational surface water locations in our community over 4-7 rounds of sampling.

We believe that the plight of our neighborhood is a social justice issue. There is a large disparity between the water quality found in the Rogers-Eubanks community and the water quality found in the rest of Carrboro and Chapel Hill, a generally affluent area. While municipal drinking water in Carrboro and Chapel Hill is some of the cleanest in the state, many of the longest-standing residents of the Rogers-Eubanks community, are unable to connect to it. Furthermore, our community has borne the burdens of the county's landfills for 37 years, and we have been promised, sometimes in writing, that measures would be taken to safeguard our water supplies, health, and well-being.

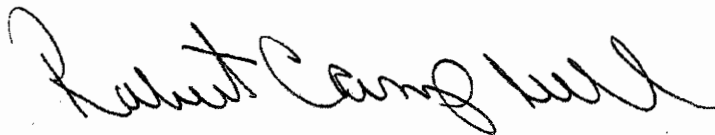
These promises, which have included connection to public water and sewer services and compliance with Clean Water Act standards, have not been fulfilled in our community for 37 years. Discovery of these compliance violations is critical as the County Commissioners are now in the process of deciding whether to site a solid waste transfer station in our community, directly adjacent to the original county landfill.

We recognize and appreciate your concern for environmental justice in Orange County, NC community. We now request your renewed effort regarding our community. We feel that your support to address water contamination in our community would be particularly timely in light of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's October 15th announcement before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that the EPA is stepping up efforts on Clean Water Act enforcement, highlighting water contamination as a priority.

Again, we ask that you renew your efforts to address water safety issues in our community in light of the findings we would like to present at one of your upcoming public meetings. Finally, we would like to request your assistance identifying funding sources. While we know of some possibilities, such as CDBG grants, your staff may know of others, such as Multimedia State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) or Safe and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) including EPA Special Appropriations (EPA SPAP) grants that have been used for Central Efland and North Buckhorn sewer improvements. We request that you or one of your staff consult with us on strategies to coordinate pursuing such funding sources. David Caldwell (davcald778@aol.com) or myself (rplcampbell@gmail.com) would be the contact persons in this matter.

The residents, households, and church members of the Rogers-Eubanks community are grateful for your consideration, and we hope your staff can help us redress these environmental disparities.

Sincerely,



Minister Robert L. Campbell,
President of the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) and
Co-Chair of the Coalition to End Environmental Racism (CEER)

Cc:

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Merrily A. Friedlander, Chief, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Coordination and Review Section – NWB, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530

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