

How to get involved:

#StopGeneralIron Hunger Strike

****SHAREABLES AT THE BOTTOM PAGE****

<p>Why is there a hunger strike?</p>	<p>Residents of a mostly Black and Latino neighborhood in Chicago's Southeast Side are currently in a hunger strike in protest of environmentally racist policies that allow polluting industry to accumulate in communities of color. The strikers are demanding that the City of Chicago deny the final permit, and thus blocking the relocation of the General Iron into the Southeast Side.</p>
<p>How can I show support for the hunger strikers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share and/or donate to this fundraiser going directly to the hunger strikers • Tag city officials on social media urging them to deny the permit (see "how to use your platform" section below) • Share @ChiHungerStrike posts/information widely • Calling Mayor Lightfoot using this script
<p>How do I change my picture icon to show support for the hunger strikers?</p>	<p>If you would like to change your picture icon for your email or social media accounts, you can use the following icon: Click Here</p>
<p>How else can I support the hunger strikers?</p>	<p>Join the hunger strikers by refraining from eating any food in solidarity with the hunger strikers. We ask that you join us in our fast by signing this pledge and posting this solidarity message on your social media— don't forget to tag city officials (Ald. Garza, Mayor Lightfoot, Governor Pritzker, CDPH, etc.).</p>
<p>How can I stay updated?</p>	<p>Follow the hunger strikers on Instagram: @ChiHungerStrike Follow the hunger strikers on Twitter: @ChiHungerStrike</p>
<p>How can I get involved in the fight against General Iron</p>	
<p>Why are community members protesting General Iron? Where can I learn more about it?</p>	<p>Background: Before General Iron (now calling itself RMG) can begin operations on the Southeast Side, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) will have to issue approvals under the new Large Recycling Facilities Rules that require additional oversight and operating procedures for the city's metals recyclers, but don't go far enough to fully protect the Southeast Side if General Iron is allowed to operate there. The city adopted these rules following continuous pressure by Southeast Side and other members of the Chicago Environmental Justice Network to address these long-underregulated facilities - and still stronger regulations are needed, including zoning regulations that address the disproportionate siting of such heavy industry in Black, Brown and other communities of color.</p> <p>The General Iron facility has a history of environmental violations, including a rash of notices of violation from this past year, and also was recently shut down after a pair of explosions disabled the site's pollution control equipment, potentially related to the company's operation of the controls. The proposed site for the new General Iron facility is just blocks from Washington Elementary and High Schools, where air monitors registered the highest levels of several harmful metals in the state in recent years.</p>

Residents are also expressing concern with a lax set of proposed regulations that themselves do not require fully enclosing toxic material and that water down air monitoring requirements, in contrast to what the city requires for other similar facilities. They also critique the environmental regulations for failing to address critical siting issues in the first instance. Southeast Siders say these unresolved issues and weak regulations are reasons to hold off issuing any further approvals or allowing any construction for the proposed new Southeast Side facility.

Articles

- [New toxic plant in Chicago minority neighborhood sparks hunger strike](#)
- [Activists Vow Hunger Strike to Protest General Iron Move to Southeast Side](#)
- [Citing 'legacy of environmental racism,' report urges City Hall to consider Southeast Side residents' health](#)
- [Southeast Side activists go on hunger strike to stop scrap shredder: 'The system isn't set up to take into account the concerns of ordinary people'](#)
- [City's Push To Permit Scrapper In Over-Polluted Southeast Side Is 'Disgusting,' Activists Say — And Now They're On A Hunger Strike To Stop It](#)
- [Hunger Strike To Stop East Side Scrapper Grows As More Activists Urge State, City Leaders To 'Do Right By ... Our Community'](#)
- [Hunger strike to stop General Iron's move to the Southeast Side enters second week](#)
- [Hunger Strike Against Southeast Side Metal Scrapper Reaches Eighth Day](#)

How can I use my platform on social media to bring awareness to stop General Iron?

Twitter:

- Use campaign hashtags [#DenyThePermit](#) [#StopGeneralIron](#).
- Post testimonials stating that you/your organizations stands with the hunger strike
- Tag Mayor Lori Lightfoot ([@ChicagosMayor](#), [@LoriLightfoot](#))
- Tag Alderwoman Sue Sadlowski Garza ([@SSadlowskiGarza](#))
- Tag Gov. JP Pritzker ([@JBPritzker](#), [@GovPritzker](#))
- Tag Sen. Dick Durbin ([@SenatorDurbin](#))
- Tag Sen. Tammy Duckworth ([@SenDuckworth](#))
- Tag Rep. Robin Kelly ([@RepRobinKelly](#))
- Tag President Joe Biden ([@JoeBiden](#), [@POTUS](#))

Instagram:

- Share posts from Southeast Side campaign groups on your ig story
- Reshare posts from Southeast Side organizations widely

Sample posts:

- The Southeast Side is not a dumping ground! I stand with the Hunger Strikers and call on [@ChicagosMayor](#) to [#DenyThePermit](#) & [#StopGeneralIron](#)
- We are fighting to stop General Iron because adding yet another polluter to a community already burdened by other industrial

companies in the area is unconscionable #StopGenerallron
#DenyThePermit

- Activists are now well into the second week of a hunger strike, yet Mayor @LoriLightfoot has remained silent. Every day that passes that she doesn't #DenyThePermit, more lives are put at risk
- Mayor @LoriLightfoot should be ashamed that her inaction is leading activists to take matters into their hands, and engage in a hunger strike during a health crisis #StopGenerallron #DenyThePermit
- It's not enough to call on the city to delay this permit. @SSadlowskiGarza please stand with you constituents and call for the city to #DenyThePermit to #StopGenerallron.
- I am calling on @JBPritzker to make amends for the shameful decision to allow the IEPA pass the zoning permit. Governor, please demand that @ChicagosMayor deny the final permit. #StopGenerallron
- We have fought decades of pollution, we have fought petcoke, we have fought manganese. We are constantly fighting for our health and it's exhausting. It shouldn't take a hunger strike for @ChicagosMayor to do the right thing #StopGenerallron

ACTION IMAGE:



STAND IN SOLIDARITY

#DenyThePermit
#PeopleOverProfit
#EnvironmentalRacism
#ChiHungerStrike



#STOPGENERALIRON HUNGER STRIKE

"On the Southeast side of Chicago, hunger strikers are denouncing environmentally racist policies that continue to allow polluting industry to accumulate in Chicago's communities of color"

MORE INFORMATION

@chihungerstrike

SUPPORT GOFUNDME

Support Hunger Strikers for
Environmental Justice



IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE:



**STOP
GENERAL
IRON**

**I am participating in a one day fast
to stand in solidarity with the
Southeast side hunger strikers
fighting to stop General Iron from
relocating to their community.**

**Instagram/Twitter: @CHIHungerStrike
#StopGeneralIron #DenyThePermits
Call the Office of Mayor Lori Lightfoot: (312) 744-3300
Scripts available at bit.ly/STOPgeniron**

SOLIDARITY PROFILE PICTURE:



#STOPGENERALIRON


***I STAND
WITH THE
HUNGER
STRIKERS***

#DENYTHEPERMITS

CONTACT SCRIPT FOR MAYOR LIGHTFOOT:

Phone number: (312) 744-3300

Email: letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org



CALL MAYOR LIGHTFOOT:
(312) 744-3300

Deny the Permit for General Iron
Friday, February 5TH, 2021

Mayor Lightfoot, my name is _____ and I am a resident of Chicago. I stand with the activists participating in a hunger strike to Stop General Iron from relocating to their community. I urge you to approve their demand of denying the final permit. They are risking their health by doing a hunger strike in the middle of pandemic, you can safely put it to an end by meeting the community's needs.

_____ **bit.ly/STOPgeniron for additional scripts**

If no one answers, leave a message.

Background: The City is currently reviewing the final permit that would allow for General Iron to move to Chicago's southeast side. General Iron has a history of air pollution & EPA violations. Members of Chicago's southeast side are staging a hunger strike to prevent a community already overburdened by industrial pollution for suffering another blow to their environment. Southeast side residents are tired of being the City's dumping ground.