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Citizen
Comment

Gainesville City Commission Meeting
November 17, 2011
Citizen Comment

My name is Alicia Alonso and I am a victim of Koppers and of the City of Gainesville. Last year I lost my non-smoking sister, Maria, to lung cancer. My husband, myself, and our dog all have cancer. My husband and my dog are now terminal. We live a block and a half away from my late sister's home. She lived across the street from Koppers.

Last week I received a call from the Gainesville Police Department telling me that they had Maria's ashes. They told me that City Codes Enforcement had ordered them to remove my sister's ashes from her home because it was scheduled for demolition. I was shocked- I had not been notified of any problems with the property, including anything that would require the drastic measure of demolition.

A couple of weeks earlier, a neighbor said that they saw Codes Enforcement on the property removing the no trespassing sign warning of its contamination. On the day GPD called, Codes Enforcement had returned and broken into the house with *no* permission and *no* notification. The property is no longer secure since they broke the lock and irresponsibly left the house wide open. The City's "compassionate" plan calls for the demolition of the property at any cost, and forcing the survivors to pay for it.

This is not how a city takes care of its already victimized, sick, and dying citizens. The City of Gainesville claims to be committed to protecting its citizens from the impact of the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site. I say your actions prove that this statement is a lie. My entire family has been repeatedly and mortally wronged. Instead of helping suffering residents, you are inflicting even more pain and distress on them.

If you want us out of the area so badly, why don't you just buy our properties. We will be happy to leave.

Mrs. Alicia Alonso
Resident, Stephen Foster Neighborhood