My name is Dr. Robert D. Bullard and I am a distinguished professor of urban planning and environmental policy and director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University. For the past four decades I have researched, documented and written some 18 book on environmental injustice and environmental racism in the United States, including documenting this pattern in a book called *Invisible Houston: The Black Experience in Boom and Bust*.

I visited the Carverdale neighborhood in the late 1970s and early 1980s when I was an expert witness on *Bean V. Southwestern Waste Management Corp.* environmental racism lawsuit filed in 1979 (went to trial in 1985) by my wife Linda McKeever Bullard. I detailed much of the racist waste dumping in my *Invisible Houston* (1987) book, including a mini-waste incinerator and a Garbage Transfer Station sited in Carverdale. This racist pattern is not new. Also, the discriminatory waste facility permitting pattern of the State of Texas has not changed from in the 1970s when it as under the auspice of the Texas Department of Health to today’s Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Foundational environmental racism research got its start in Houston more than 42 years ago. Perhaps you might have an interest in this on-going struggle in 2022 (not 1979) that involved the continuous "dumping on Black Houstonians." In this case, Houston's predominately Black Carverdale neighborhood in Northwest Houston, an area that is overwhelmingly white, except for Carverdale, a Black neighborhood that been the dumping garbage, waste and debris for more than five decades.

Carverdale residents are fighting the expansion permit for the Hawthorn Park C&D Landfill that opened in 1977 (45 years ago). Waste Management wants to get the landfill expansion permit that would allow this facility to operate another 46 years--for a total of 91 years. The average life expectancy of a landfill is less than 30 years. However, this landfill is three times that. Also its 3 times average home mortgage in the neighborhood. It's also 18 years longer than the average life expectancy of the Black male residents in the Zip code.
TCEQ held an online public meeting and hearing on January 18, 2022 where I asked questions and presented testimony on the environmental justice and civil rights implication of granting this permit. I posed the question to TCEQ hearing officials, "if all landfill permit applications came to TCEQ show that they all were located in predominately Black communities, would any flag go off at the agency that would trigger some type of examination or scrutiny?" TCEQ official response was, no.

I asked a follow up question, "If this is the case, then are you saying that there is nothing that TCEQ re facility permitting that would intervene or block 100 percent (systematic targeting) of waste facilities from going into Black communities?" TCEQ's response was, "there is nothing in the regulations that allow for demographics of communities to be considered. They only check to make sure the technical aspects of the permit application have been met."

In summary, collusion between the private waste industry and state actors is allowing Black communities in Houston to become the "dumping grounds," again. This type of environmental racism is stealing Black homeowners health and robbing them of transformative wealth in their homes and property to be later passed down to their family members.