

At first glance, the regulations drafted by the mayor's office appear to take a firm stand against the handlers of petcoke in Chicago. Upon closer inspection it becomes clear that the document is merely political smoke and mirrors that were contrived in an attempt to fool the public. Newsflash to the mayor, we're not stupid and we see exactly what he's done. The saying that "The devil is in the details" was never more appropriate than with this set of regulations.

After hiding from the public and media for weeks, the mayor came out with the bluster of a supposedly outraged mayor, acting like he's out to protect the community, when in reality he's behind the scenes crafting phony "get tough" regulations with an "escape hatch" clause to secretly allow the Commissioner to waive these same regulations.

For 11 pages there is one strict regulation after another, giving the appearance that these regulations have some teeth. Then you get to page 12 and find that one paragraph undoes it all and makes the regulations WORTHLESS. Page 12 - section 3.0, sub-section (18) renders almost everything you've read up until that point, meaningless. It's Emanuel's gift to KCBX and their wealthy, clout heavy owners.

This section gives the Commissioner the exclusive right to secretly grant VARIANCES on almost EVERY ASPECT of the ENTIRE list of regulations - leading the regulations to completely unravel, and leaving the entire process open to BLATANT BRIBERY and CORRUPTION at the hands of the Commissioner and the corporations!

Other glaring facts are on Pages 5 & 6, section 5, which allows KCBX to continue operating their facility without EVER enclosing it. What happened to the "petcoke must be enclosed within 2 years"? That's a total revision of what the mayor announced in the media with much fanfare.

The odd figures for setback regulations are another obvious section tailored expressly for the benefit of KCBX. It's not a coincidence that the setback figure of 660 feet from childcare facilities and outdoor recreational facilities was chosen. There is a preschool on the corner of 107th and Mackinaw and Wolf Park is located at 108th and Buffalo. My suspicion is that they did NOT arrive at these figures arbitrarily, but intentionally to give KCBX yet another gift. They must have gone to a lot of trouble of measuring the distance to come up with that built-in protection for KCBX.

Finally, the obvious omission of ANY consequences, penalties or fines for failing to abide by these regulations was another dead give-away that Mayor Emanuel had no intention of enforcing any of it. No one here has been fooled by this fraudulent ploy. The community will continue to seek state and federal remedies, since their city government has failed them miserably.

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