Homer Craig

I want to thank you first of all for the opportunity to speak. I want to let you know that I'm not here to argue, but I am here to represent the longtime residents of Hazelwood and their quality of life. And I have some questions to ask.

First of all, does ALMONO really exist other than as a mysterious entity that controls things but doesn't exist in one place? Also, I'd like to know what their commitment is. In other words, you say [the shuttle] is free—how can it be free when you're going to take up 20-some million dollars in taxpayers' money just to build the infrastructure? Plus the fact of how long is it going to be free for the residents of Hazelwood and what comes afterwards? Will we get charged, does [service] go down, is it eliminated?

There's a lot of questions concerning the quality of life for longtime residents of Hazelwood and on gentrification. Who's going to really benefit if the capacity is 1,000 riders a day and you're going to displace 20,000 cars a day—the math does not figure. We need some realistic math. So I have to support what [City Councilman] Corey O'Connor said—answer us the questions about quality of life here.

When I say this, I say this as an 81-year resident of Hazelwood. My life is wrapped up here. I get calls every day from gentrifiers that want to buy my property so they can buy at a low price and overcharge my neighbors so that they run them out and then move in people who never even thought of Hazelwood. This is my home.