

I'm **Ziggy Edwards** and I live in The Run. We are at risk of being erased—not only by flooding, but by those who see our community and Schenley Park as “barriers” to their vision of “economic growth.” Something is deeply wrong when public officials who are supposed to represent us instead side with powerful, private, non-tax-paying interests to effectively wage war against us. But that’s what my neighbors have been dealing with for at least five years.

In 2015 we learned of the MOC plan from a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article reporting it as a done deal. There’s a much longer history of making plans for this little valley while excluding the people who live here.

Instead of responding to our legitimate concerns about the MOC, public employees twisted those concerns to seem like a baseless fear of progress. They pitted neighboring communities against each other. They filed fraudulent grant applications and applied for new grants without telling us. They used public meetings for time-share marketing tactics rather than honest discussion. They responded to Right-to-Know requests with claims of attorney-client privilege and a 7,185-page unsearchable PDF. They obscured and constantly changed details such as the route.

These are not the actions of people with good intentions. If the MOC benefited those who live in the communities it affects, Mayor Peduto’s administration would not need to resort to duplicity and steamrolling.

Now, we have one public meeting to give “input” on the real plans—after the private interests behind those plans have finally stepped forward. Meanwhile, several neighbors on my street recently received letters from DOMI implying they may lose their homes and businesses through eminent domain.

Our participation in this sham process does not equal consent. We refuse to be a sacrifice zone for a development project that would permanently degrade Panther Hollow, The Run, and Schenley Park. We’re not in the way of your development project—we are home. Your project is the problem, not our existence.

I’ve been told, “You’ll never stop this road. There’s too much money behind it.” But The Run is worth defending, and this fight is much bigger than us. People all over Pittsburgh are standing with us because they know it.