



June 2025

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Tucson City Hall
255 W. Alameda St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Tucson Human Relations Commission, we write to respectfully request that the Mayor and City Council consider discussing and adopting the attached resolution titled "A Resolution of the Tucson Human Relations Commission Recommending the Mayor and City Council Affirm the City's Commitment to Addressing Groundwater Contamination on Tucson's Southside" at an upcoming Mayor and Council meeting.

The Tucson Human Relations Commission serves as an advisory body committed to promoting equity, justice, and human rights for all residents of Tucson. As such, we believe it is imperative to acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of groundwater contamination on Southside residents. The Commission commends and acknowledges the City's efforts to monitor and remediate contamination but implores the City to emphasize the need for continued action and community-led solutions that promote public health, environmental equity, and community well-being.

The proposed resolution was informed by ongoing conversations with community activists and a recent listening session summarized below. The resolution emphasizes the need for:

- continued remediation efforts
- increased access to healthcare for impacted residents
- the expansion of community-centered health programs, and
- meaningful engagement and education with Southside residents in finding solutions.

By taking bold and deliberate action, we believe the City can uphold its commitment to equity and justice while fostering trust and collaboration with affected communities.

We urge you to prioritize this resolution and to take this as a notable opportunity to underscore the need to advance the health, well-being, and self-determination of Southside residents. Your leadership in addressing these critical issues will have a lasting impact on the future of our city and its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are available to discuss this resolution further and to assist in any way possible to support its passage. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the contact information below with any questions or to schedule a time for further dialogue.

Sincerely,

Tucson Human Relations Commission:

Cedric Smith, Chairperson, Ward 4

Eric Howard, Commissioner, Ward 3

Ashley Jackson, Commissioner, Ward 2

June Webb-Vignery Ph.D., Commissioner, Ward 5

John Richard Dalton Jr., Advisor

Iris Berry, Advisor

Contact:

- Cedric Smith, cedricsmith520@gmail.com, 520-310-6489

Attached: Summary of Community Input

Summary of Community Input: Tucson Southside Historical Water Contamination

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 | Valencia Library, Tucson, Arizona | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Facilitated by:

- Daniel Sullivan, University of Arizona
- Elizabeth Yee, University of Arizona
- Alisha Vasquez, Mexican American Heritage and History Museum

Approximately 30 people attended, representing members of the public, activists, policy organizations, a Ward 1 representative, HRC commissioners, and academic experts primarily from the University of Arizona.

What follows is a summary of community and participant comments prepared by Daniel Sullivan:

- There should be an awareness campaign leading to community mobilization, not only on the southside but throughout Tucson and Pima County.
- It is difficult to determine who has been “impacted” by contamination and therefore who can be helped by the Resolution initiatives. Epidemiological study and blood testing efforts are necessary for this.
- Barriers to healthcare include difficulty getting appointments and covering the co-pays. A specialized clinic on the southside for those impacted should be a priority.
- It is critical that polluters and producers of contaminants pay for Resolution initiatives, rather than taxpayers.
- There are many involved, impacted, and important institutions and organizations in the Pima County area that should be brought together with the Mayor and Council to achieve Resolution initiatives.

For more information, please contact Daniel Sullivan at swolf22@arizona.edu.