



FREEDOM TO BREATHE CLIMATE CHANGE TOUR COMES TO ATLANTA

**Part of 5,000-mile Cross Country Bus Tour Drawing Attention to
the Fight Against Climate Change in Communities on the Frontlines**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Atlanta — Invoking the Freedom Riders bus tours of the 60’s civil rights movement, the Freedom to Breathe bus tour will be visiting Atlanta on August 25, 2018. Designed to draw attention to the immediate impacts of climate change, the tour will be bringing climate experts to a 10AM to 12PM town hall meeting at Dunbar Recreation Center (477 Windsor St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30312) to help the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) and other community partners raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on their community.

“Vulnerable communities across this country are inundated with environmental challenges and climate change impacts that threaten health and quality of life,” Dr. Na’Taki Osborne-Jelks, board chair of WAWA said. “At a time in which the commitment to safeguard these communities from environmental injustices is in question, the need for raising awareness is greater than it’s ever been.”

The Atlanta town hall is the first of many that will be held in communities during the 5,000-mile cross country bus tour, which starts on Aug. 25, 2018. Making stops in Miami, New Orleans, Houston, El Paso, and Denver, along with stops in smaller communities along the way, the tour will end in San Francisco at the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, which runs from Sept. 12-14.

The purpose of the tour is to draw attention to the communities on the frontlines of climate change, those which are already feeling its impacts, and to showcase the work that local organizations are doing in these communities to stem the tide. Climate change is a complex problem, which is often interwoven with health, labor, and equity issues – particularly in these frontline communities. However, organizers believe that there is an inherent value to not only drawing attention to and humanizing those on the frontlines of this fight, but also in exploring the grassroots solutions that these local communities are undertaking to combat climate change.

“Studies have found that climate change disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color,” noted Dr. Adrienne L. Hollis, Director of Federal Policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a leading environmental justice organization that is supporting a number of community organizations participating in the tour through a grant received from the Environmental Defense Fund. “With the Freedom to Breathe tour, we are helping give voice to those who are already being impacted by climate change, calling attention to – in both the mainstream media as well as the mainstream environmental movement – the crisis at hand and all the incredible work these organizations are doing in response to it.

“We feel a lot can be learned from the work these local environmental justice organizations are doing,” added Hollis. “Because, unless we suddenly make some dramatic changes with regards to energy and emissions, every community is going to have to learn how to deal with these challenges on a local level.”

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