



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS ISSUES STATEMENT ON
CONSTRUCTION OF BYHALIA CONNECTION PIPELINE**

Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris announced today his opposition to the construction of the Byhalia Connection Pipeline. The proposed crude oil pipeline by Valero Energy Corporation and Plains All American Pipeline would run through South Memphis. Specifically, the pipeline would run through the Boxtown neighborhood, where African Americans make up more than 95% of the population, according to the U.S. Census.

Additionally, The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's data shows that there have been 5,740 significant pipeline incidents over the last 20 years—amounting to nearly 300 incidents every year. “Significant incidents” include those that caused injuries, fatalities, costly damages, highly volatile liquid spills, fires or explosions. The data on pipeline incidents imply that the construction of this pipeline could pose a risk to the Memphis Sand Aquifer, Shelby County's primary drinking water source. The proposed route of the Byhalia pipeline would cross over the Memphis Sand Aquifer.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “Water from the Memphis Sands Aquifer is one of Shelby County's most precious natural resources. Amid a recent water crisis, it's even more clear that we have to do everything we can to protect our water supply. The proposed Byhalia Connection Pipeline poses an unnecessary risk to historic Memphis neighborhoods. Additionally, the pipeline would run through predominantly African American neighborhoods and potentially endanger communities that have historically borne the brunt of environmental degradation. I stand with these communities to call for an end to the construction of the Byhalia Pipeline.”

(end of release)

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