



KENNEDY TOWNSHIP, PA

AARON STUBNA

CONCERNS



ODORS



QUALITY
OF LIFE



HEALTH



BUSINESS

I've lived pretty much all my life around Neville Island, moving back and forth between Kennedy Township and Bellevue over the years. I went to school in Kennedy Township. When I got married I moved to Bellevue for three years, and then moved back to Kennedy.

I also have a business in the area. It's a family barber shop called Lincoln Barber Shop. It's right in the middle of Bellevue on Lincoln Avenue. We're going on 50 years now. I'm a third-generation barber, same location. Bellevue is a cool little walkable town. The business district is about a mile in length, right along Lincoln Avenue. It's so close to downtown Pittsburgh. It's a good location overall.

In Bellevue I noticed the smell from Shenango more in the mornings. On certain days there was this stench, mostly in the early morning hours. I noticed it in Kennedy Township every once in a while, ever so slightly, but I think you could smell it more on the Bellevue side of the river. **When you're outside you like to smell fresh air, and some days you didn't have it.** As far as effects, I was more irritated by the odor than health issues.

I realized that air pollution was a problem because a lot of people talked about it at my business in Bellevue. I have one customer in particular who has COPD, so he has difficulty breathing. He couldn't even go out of the house on bad days. That's how bad it was for somebody in his condition. I'd ask him a couple days later, "Hey Joe, where you been the past couple of days?" and he'd say, "I couldn't come out of the house because the fumes, the smell, the pollution was bad that day." It really affects people with breathing problems.

I believe we helped shut Shenango down. There was a kickoff event at our barber shop. The purpose of the event was to get the word out—to spread the word and to gather like-minded folks who wanted to fight this. We were more than happy to give the barber shop as a place to meet, to bring awareness

to the community, to give people an outlet to speak and hear and learn and get involved. Since then I've basically been about having conversations with customers, many of whom come from surrounding areas. That's my way of spreading the word. Some of my customers belong to the Allegheny County Clean Air Now group. I get information from them, and then I pass it along. A barber shop's a good meeting place to spread information.

At the press conference I said something about the fines, and how **it seemed like Shenango had no problem with just getting fined and paying the fees instead of changing anything.** I also talked about how in the barber business we have what's called barbicide—that bluish liquid in the cylinder where we put our combs. You have to soak the combs in there to clean them and keep them disinfected. When we get inspected we will actually get shut down if the barbicide is murky, if it's not the right color of blue, or if you don't have the right amount of barbicide in the container. We can also be fined for other issues. Simple things like that, it's amazing. And then you look at something major like what Shenango was doing, and it seemed they can just continue on their merry way. When I compared those two scenarios, it didn't make sense.

We've been here a long time and I think it's important to speak out, especially if you have a business that's been around as long as we have. We live in the community, and many of the people around here have lived here forever. They should be listening to both the business owners and the residents, and taking them seriously. We have all

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invested here, settled here, and we're investing in a community. Everyone wants a better way of life. This problem should have been looked at and fixed a long time ago. It shouldn't have taken this long. It's about time if they finally listen to the people and the business owners.

I found out the plant was shutting down through the ACCAN group, through a series of emails they sent out. I also read it in the paper. It was good news to hear. You didn't think it was going to happen. It just seemed like they continued to get away with what they'd been doing for all of those years and that nothing was ever going to change. People have put a lot of time and effort into this, and it was good to see that some good came out of it. **Since it shut down, I have not had those random mornings of weird smells or odors. You just don't smell it anymore. It is nice, it's a good feeling to have better air quality.**

Why can't we have a cool area over there on Neville Island? It could be condos or what not. I know that's a stretch since there's a lot of industry there with big warehouses and other facilities. With the line of work that I'm in with my other business, I'd like to see something really cool, a brewery or something like that. But the reality of that may be years down the road. If you shut the rest of the places down, you've got a lot of land down there to build on.