Georgia State University

School of Public Health

Informed Consent

**Title:** Prioritization of Environmental Hazards for Community Based Participatory Research in Atlanta Georgia’s NPU-V and Proctor Creek

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Christina Fuller

**Co-Investigator**: Professor John Steward

**Student Principal Investigator:** Molly Dunham-Friel, MPH Candidate

I. **Purpose:**

You are invited to participate in a focus group. The purpose of the focus group is to identify environmental hazards in your community. You are invited to participate because you are a resident of either: Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, Capital Gateway or Proctor Creek (Vine City or English Avenue). Participation will require up to3 hours of your time, over the course of 3 months.

II. **Procedures:**

If you decide to participate, you will participate in a focus group by giving verbal feedback on your opinion about the environmental hazards in your community. You will also fill out an anonymous evaluation. This research will be conducted in your community at a local organization. No personal information will be required or taken from you. The researchers will take notes during the focus group.

III. **Risks:**

In this study, you will not have any more risks than you would on a typical day.

IV. **Benefits:**

Participation in this study may not benefit you personally. This study will provide information for a grant application to conduct environmental research within your neighborhood, which could result in improvements to the environment in your area.

VI. **Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal:**

Participation in research is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study. If you decide to be in the study and change your mind, you have the right to drop out at any time. You may skip questions or stop participating at any time. Whatever you decide, you will not lose any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

VII. **Confidentiality:**

We will keep your information private to the extent allowed by law. Dr. Christina Fuller, Professor John Steward and Molly Dunham-Friel will have access to the information you provide. Information may also be shared with those who make sure the study is done correctly (GSU Institutional Review Board, the Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP). We will use participant numbers rather than your name on study records. The information you provide will be stored on an encrypted and locked computer. All of your information will be unidentifiable, meaning your name will not be associated with any feedback you give. Your name and other facts that might point to you will not appear when we present this study or publish its results. The findings will be summarized and reported in group form. You will not be identified personally. Please do not reveal any information that is discussed in the group. The researchers do not have complete control of the confidentiality of the data/discussion information.

VIII. **Contact Persons:**

You may contact Dr. Christina Fuller (404-413-1388, [cfuller@gsu.edu](mailto:cfuller@gsu.edu)) , Professor John Steward (404-413-1137 [jsteward@gsu.edu](mailto:jsteward@gsu.edu)), if you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this study. You can also call if you think you have been harmed by the study. Call Susan Vogtner in the Georgia State University Office of Research Integrity at 404-413-3513 or svogtner1@gsu.edu if you want to talk to someone who is not part of the study team. You can talk about questions, concerns, offer input, obtain information, or suggestions about the study. You can also call Susan Vogtner if you have questions or concerns about your rights in this study.

IX. **Copy of Consent Form to Participant:**

We will give you a copy of this consent form to keep.

If you are willing to volunteer for this research, please sign below.

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Printed Name of Participant

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Signature of Participant Date

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Principal Investigator or Researcher Obtaining Consent Date