

CITY OF JERSEY CITY



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Mayor Healy Joins With NoGasPipeline.org For Benefit to Stop The Spectra Pipeline At the Landmark Loew's Jersey Theatre November 6th Event To Include a Screening of The Sundance Award-Winning Documentary "Gasland" and a Panel Discussion

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and members of the **Municipal Council** will join **NoGasPipeline.org** founders' Dale Hardman and Stephen Musgrave, and Mike Bernard, founder of **SpectraEnergyWatch.com**, as well as others at a benefit screening of the Sundance Award-winning documentary, "*Gasland*" at **4:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, November 6, 2010**, at the **Landmark Loew's Jersey Theatre**, 54 Journal Square. A panel discussion on the dangers of the planned Spectra Natural Gas Pipeline route through Jersey City will follow the film's screening.

Mayor Healy has been a vocal opponent of the proposed pipeline, going on record with a letter to Jersey City's federal delegation in January. Since then, Mayor Healy has been featured in numerous television and print media stories about the dangers of running a pipeline through Jersey City – New Jersey's second-largest city and one of the area's most densely populated urban centers. At the August 4th public comment meeting held by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at Ferris High School, Mayor Healy received a standing ovation for his remarks against the proposed pipeline.

After the devastating natural gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno, California in September, which left nine people dead and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property, Mayor Healy announced that he would be filing for "**intervenor status**" with (FERC) on behalf of the City of Jersey City in an attempt to stop the pipeline.

"It's heartening to see concerned citizens pledging their time and effort to oppose an imminent threat to our city and our community," said Mayor Healy. "I commend Dale Hardman and Stephen Musgrave and all the No Gas Pipeline volunteers who donated their time and efforts to coordinate and organize this very important benefit to heighten community awareness of the dangers this pipeline poses. The more residents and business owners who become aware of this threat can only strengthen and make greater our city's resolve in fighting this project, which presents so much risk and danger to Jersey City and her residents, but no benefits."

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An exposé of environmental hazard and corporate greed, “*Gasland*” was awarded the 2009 Special Jury Prize by the Sundance Film Festival in the documentary category. According to the film’s website, “the Halliburton-developed drilling technology of “fracking” or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a “Saudi Arabia of natural gas” just beneath us.... When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination.”

As it is currently proposed, the Spectra pipeline would cut through Jersey City’s densely populated and historically significant neighborhoods of Greenville, Bergen-Lafayette and Downtown Jersey City. Not only would the pipeline greatly increase the risk to residents and their property values, but it would also run dangerously close to schools, hospitals, factories, and residential neighborhoods. The planned 30 inch diameter pipeline (the same diameter pipeline which was involved in the San Bruno explosion) would also place some 800 pounds per square inch (psi) of natural gas per day in close proximity to Tier 1 and Tier 2 Critical Infrastructure, as designated by the Department of Homeland Security, making the area a prime target for terrorists.

“We have repeatedly expressed our concerns about Spectra Energy running a high-pressure natural gas pipeline through our city, and what happened in San Bruno brings those fears to a new level,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The incident in California claimed several lives, injured many, and leveled dozens of homes. If this type of explosion were to happen in a city our size, we cannot begin to comprehend the level of devastation, destruction and loss of life. It would be catastrophic.”

After running nearly the entire length of Jersey City, the Spectra pipeline would then take a sharp turn near the Holland Tunnel, go under the Hudson River, and resurface at 14th Street in Manhattan, to service the west side ConEd facility.

“As I’ve said before, Jersey City bears all the risks, which are more than considerable, while our good friends to the east, the people of Manhattan, get all the benefits,” said **Mayor Healy**. “That’s unacceptable to the people of Jersey City.”

Tickets to the benefit are a \$10 donation and all children under 12 who are accompanied by an adult will be free. For more information on the “*Gasland*” Benefit Screening and Panel Discussion visit nogaspipeline.org or call 347-789-7508 or visit jerseycitynj.org.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///