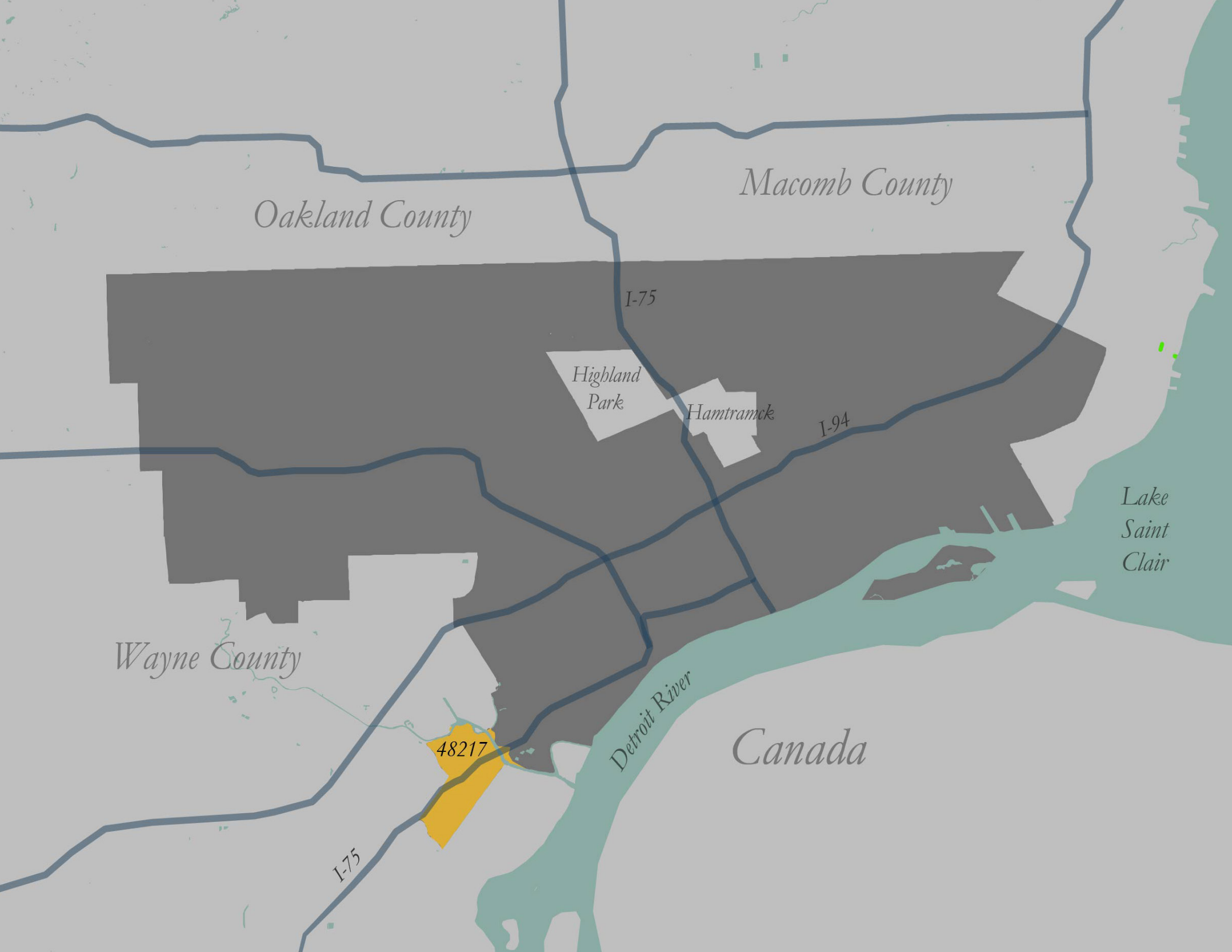




“WE FIGHT SO MANY BATTLES”

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM *in* DETROIT’S 48217 NEIGHBORHOOD

LISA BERGLUND, PhD | lisa.berglund@dal.ca | Dalhousie University



Oakland County

Macomb County

I-75

*Highland
Park*

Hamtramck

I-94

*Lake
Saint
Clair*

Wayne County

48217

Detroit River

Canada

I-75

48217

land use history of
48217



Ford Rouge Plant opened in the 20s



Detroit Salt Company opened in the 20s



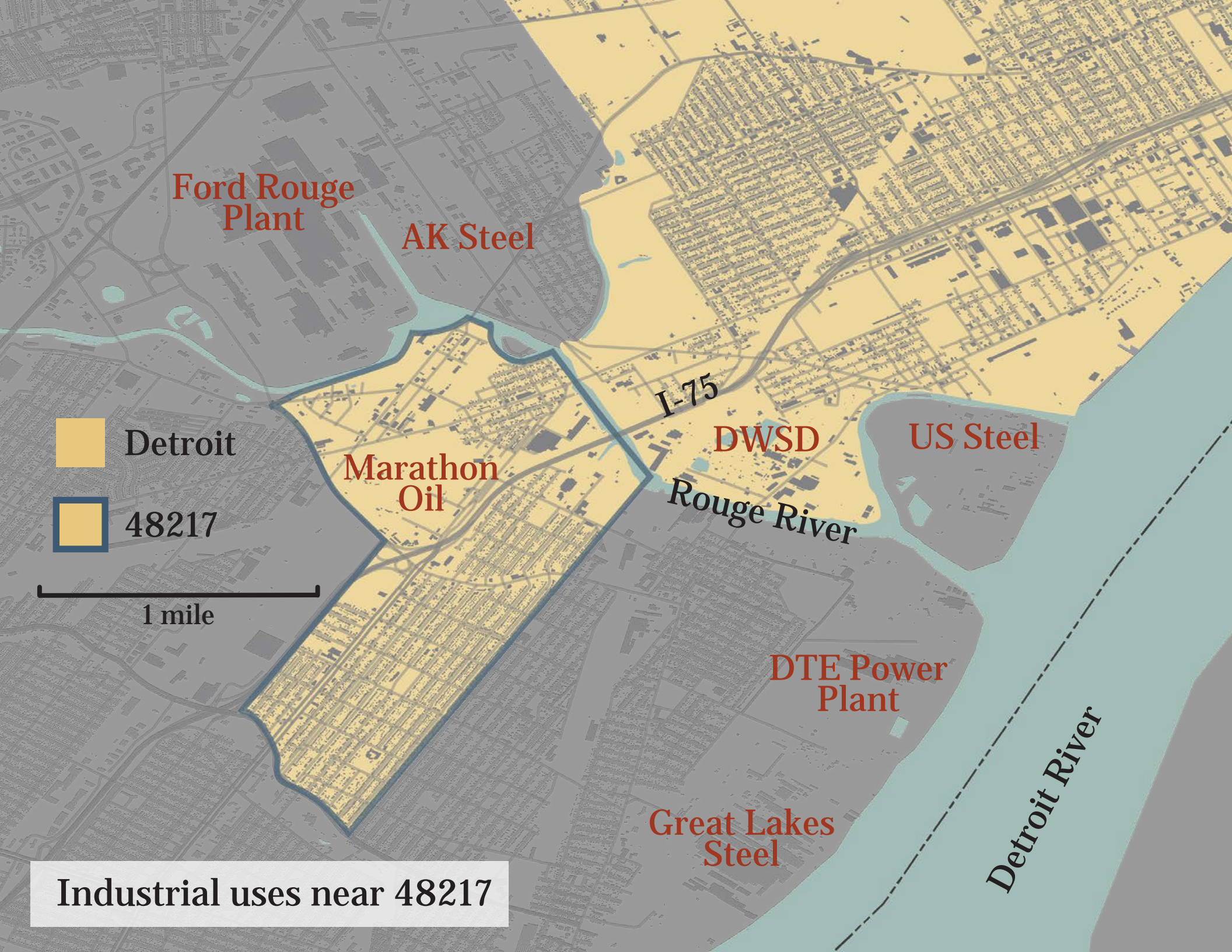
DTE Energy opened in the 50s



DWSD opened in the 60s



Marathon Petroleum opened in the 30s



Ford Rouge
Plant

AK Steel



Detroit



48217

Marathon
Oil

I-75

DWSD

US Steel

Rouge River

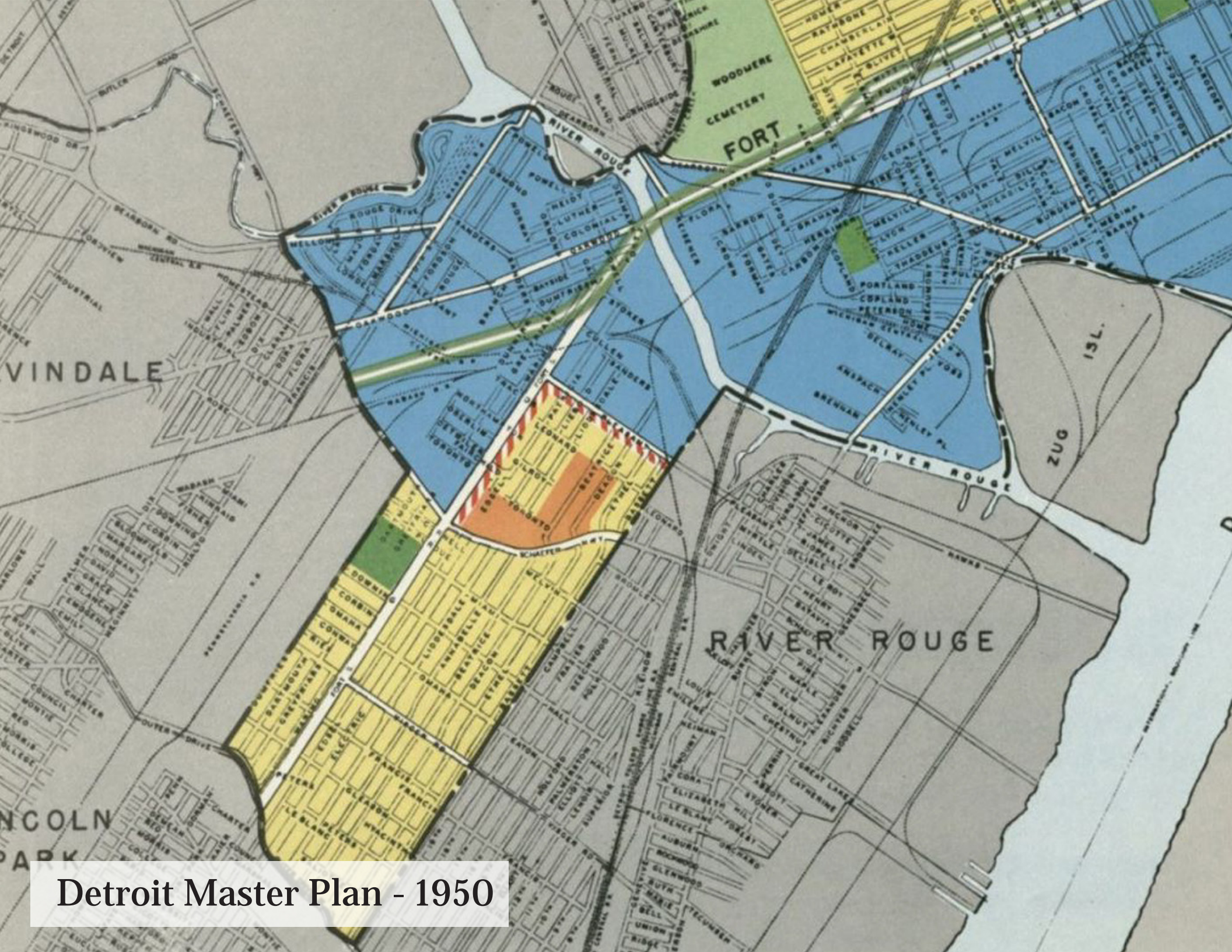
1 mile

DTE Power
Plant

Great Lakes
Steel

Detroit River

Industrial uses near 48217



Detroit Master Plan - 1950

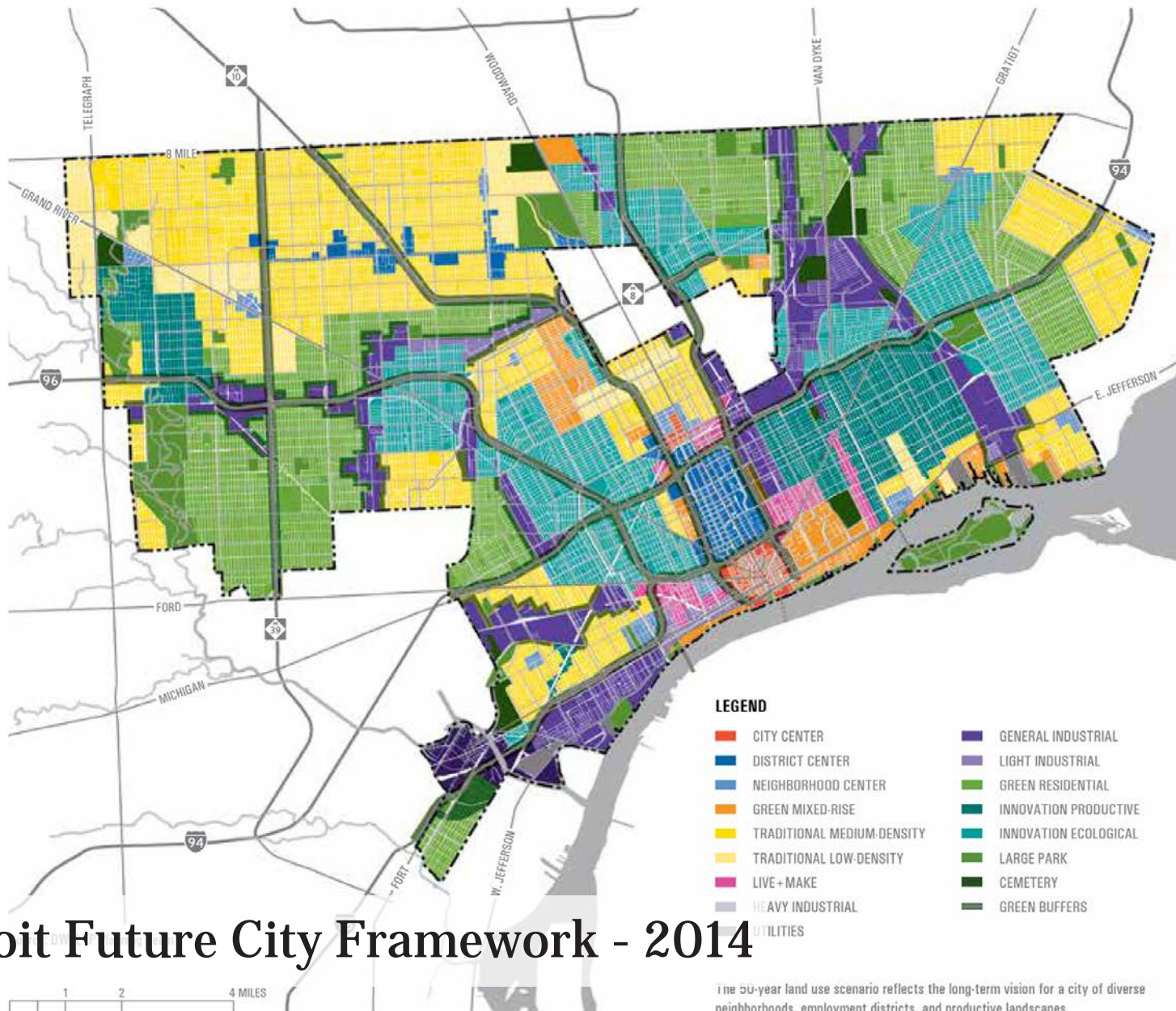
“...[the planning department] determined that Southwest Detroit and surrounding neighborhoods would basically be heavy industrial, and they weren’t going to invest in infrastructure and things to support residential uses...By the mid-50s, that became the official policy.”

-Historian for the State of Michigan



Detroit's Urban Design Strategy - 1970

PROPOSED: 50-YEAR LAND USE SCENARIO



Detroit Future City Framework - 2014

The 50-year land use scenario reflects the long-term vision for a city of diverse neighborhoods, employment districts, and productive landscapes.



Burned homes in 48217



SOUTHWESTERN
SCHOOL DISTRICT
800-447-4474
1000 WEST 10TH AVE
DETROIT, MI 48207

FOR SALE/LEASE
CARL DETROIT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
313-873-6170

Southwestern High School



Closed Kemeny Recreation Center

“We’re forgotten.”

-48217 Resident

*a tradition of
resistance*

“If we don’t fight for it, we don’t get it.”

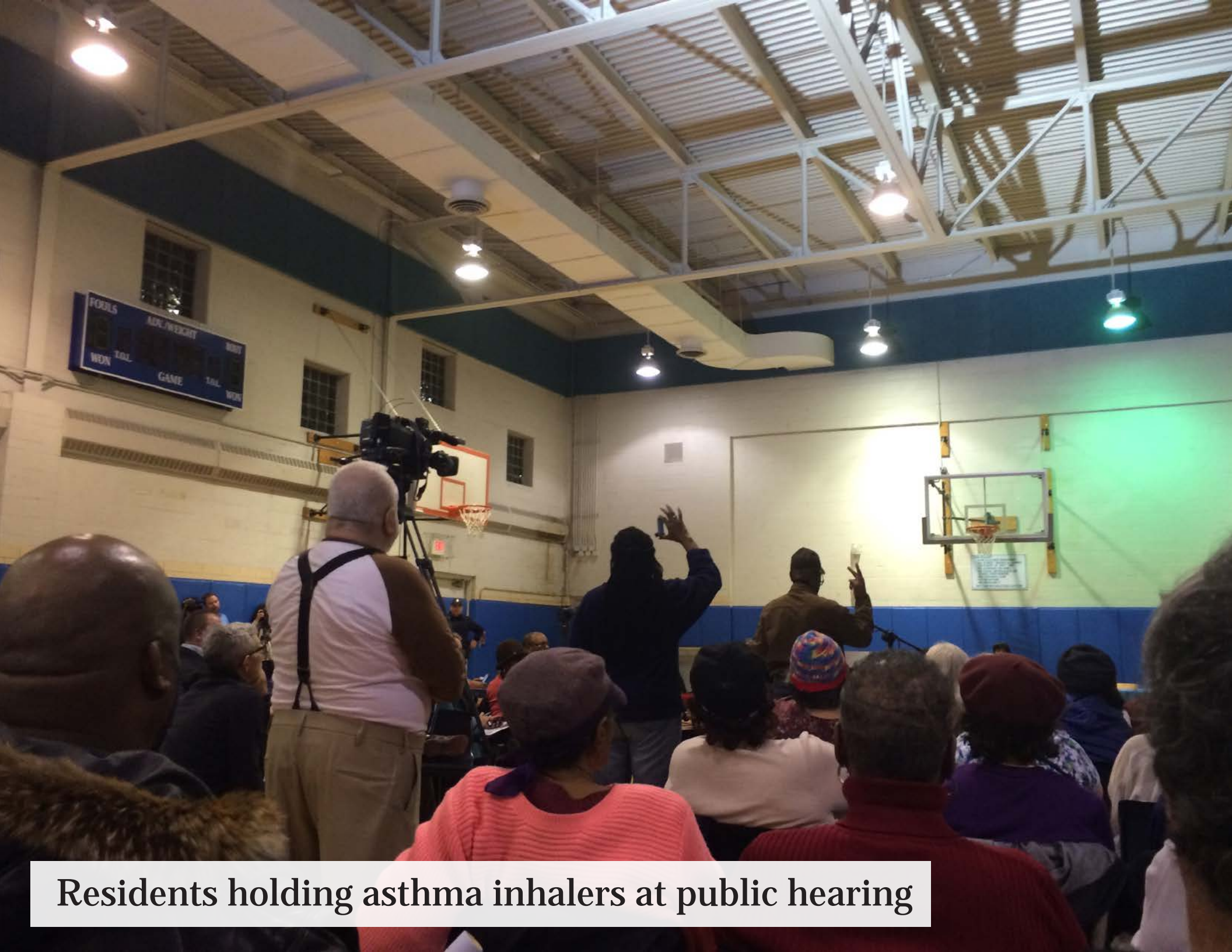
-48217 Resident



Residents protesting outside of Marathon



Residents marching for environmental justice



Residents holding asthma inhalers at public hearing

“We are reliving Flint, Michigan right now...Because the citizens came before the MDEQ and the EPA and everyone said you’re harming us. You’re hurting us. They used a bottle of water to show, to illustrate, to explain, well I have my asthma inhaler here tonight because I have to use it.”

-48217 Resident

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

**FLINT
LIVES
MATTER**

**Majority-
Black
Detroit
Matters**
#MajorityBlackDetroit



DALE G. YOUNG

Michigan's pollution crisis shows black lives do not matter

Detroit's most polluted and predominantly black neighborhood is on the verge of a health catastrophe worse than Flint's

January 17, 2016 2:00AM ET

by [Emma Lockridge](#) - [@2012Emlouloc](#)

On Jan. 15, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette vowed to investigate the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, to determine whether any state laws were broken, resulting in lead contamination.

Article by 48217 resident
“The situation in Flint is a human tragedy in which families are struggling with even the most basic parts of daily life,” he said in a statement. “While everyone acknowledges that mistakes were made, my duty as attorney general

*economics vs.
health*

“There is nothing we need more than jobs. I’m very cognizant of the environmental and health issues in Southwest Detroit, but it’s a balancing act, and we need to weigh that in our decisions.”

Gary Brown
City Councillor

“Why can’t we have jobs and good health?.”

-48217 Resident



COVID-19 Testing in 48217 (Photo: Emma Lockridge)



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