

WEBVTT

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00:00:01.230 --> 00:00:02.040

Mike Harrington: Okay, it's recording

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00:00:03.210 --> 00:00:09.120

Mike Harrington: So thank you again for your time. Could you please tell me your full name.

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00:00:10.110 --> 00:00:11.219

nickysheats: Nikki sheets.

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00:00:11.610 --> 00:00:13.049

Mike Harrington: Oh, sorry, did you say my name is

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00:00:13.889 --> 00:00:14.400

nickysheats: My name.

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00:00:14.490 --> 00:00:15.900

nickysheats: My name is Nikki sheets.

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00:00:16.949 --> 00:00:22.380

Mike Harrington: And what organization to you represent today. Are you representing today.

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00:00:22.770 --> 00:00:32.460

nickysheats: I'm with the New Jersey. Environmental Justice Alliance, I work at Thomas Edison State University. And I'm also with the New Jersey environmental Environmental Justice Alliance.

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00:00:33.090 --> 00:00:53.730

Mike Harrington: Thank you. So we just have a few questions to talk about the work that you're doing. So the first question. If you'd like me to repeat it, please let me know. But how are your organization and community being impacted by responding to the covert 19 crisis.

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00:00:55.020 --> 00:00:57.450

nickysheats: Well, I think as an organization.

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00:00:58.260 --> 00:01:01.890

nickysheats: What it has reminded reminded us

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00:01:02.760 --> 00:01:12.570

nickysheats: And reinforce a message that we have always tried to carry is that environmental justice COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR low income communities.

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00:01:13.770 --> 00:01:17.760

nickysheats: That are often have suffered from disproportionate amounts of pollution.

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00:01:18.390 --> 00:01:22.560

nickysheats: That the disproportionate mouse of pollution, combined with social bonding.

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00:01:22.770 --> 00:01:23.820

Vulnerabilities

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00:01:25.440 --> 00:01:36.330

nickysheats: put them at risk for the detriment mint detrimental impact of a lot of things. And I think covert has has shown shown that unfortunately

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00:01:40.890 --> 00:01:45.840

nickysheats: Because we have the you know the article the paper coming out from Harvard that long term exposure to

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00:01:47.700 --> 00:01:53.100

nickysheats: It looks like increases the death rate of covert we have the way that race.

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00:01:54.690 --> 00:02:11.280

nickysheats: very insidious manner increases the death rates amongst black and brown people. And so we have said for a long time that these environmental justice communities are more risk and that we need to have laws and policies that address that.

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00:02:13.080 --> 00:02:17.760

Mike Harrington: In. Could you talk a little bit more about the paper, please. And who's working on the paper.

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00:02:19.410 --> 00:02:22.890

nickysheats: So that's, that's not our paper that that that was a study done by Harvard

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00:02:23.580 --> 00:02:30.030

nickysheats: By some folks up at Hawker that made the connection between long term air pollution particulate matter air pollution.

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00:02:30.090 --> 00:02:38.580

Mike Harrington: And climate death rates. All right. Yeah, I think I've heard of that. I'm I was planning to take a look at that. I've seen some other studies about well,

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00:02:39.600 --> 00:02:41.400

nickysheats: There are several other studies out about it.

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00:02:43.320 --> 00:02:45.300

Mike Harrington: And for the second question.

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00:02:48.330 --> 00:02:52.680

Mike Harrington: And mate. Yeah. What lessons are you seeing

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00:02:54.060 --> 00:02:57.000

Mike Harrington: From from the coven crisis.

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00:02:58.020 --> 00:03:14.490

Mike Harrington: That we can apply to responding to the climate crisis. So you did talk about a few of the links between race and the death rates, but, you know, other some lessons that you're saying that we can apply to the work that we're doing in the class to combat the climate right

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00:03:15.810 --> 00:03:20.580

nickysheats: Um yeah well to expand my first answer a little bit, we see that the

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00:03:21.000 --> 00:03:37.290

nickysheats: You know combination of disruption of pollution and social vulnerabilities is obviously not a good thing. So it's

reinforcing that so it really reinforces the fact that I think DJ communities on the right track. When we talk about Kim of impacts know all the pollution.

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00:03:38.370 --> 00:03:45.060

nickysheats: When you consider the impact of all the pollution, together with the social vulnerabilities. This is a real problem and we have to address the issue.

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00:03:45.480 --> 00:03:51.210

nickysheats: And so what we've been saying for a while. Is that because of cumulative impact because of disperse the amount of pollution.

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00:03:51.780 --> 00:04:06.450

nickysheats: We have to develop policies to reduce the pollution in environmental justice communities and one type of policy that needs to be used to address this. This disproportionate amount of pollution is climate change mitigation paths.

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00:04:07.470 --> 00:04:20.640

nickysheats: So we have to formulate we should formulae climate change mitigation policy in a way that ensures emissions reductions in EJ communities and environmental justice communities.

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00:04:21.120 --> 00:04:28.440

nickysheats: And I'm talking mainly about power plants power plants. Now, I mean we have to do that in other areas, but the most thought we've given

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00:04:28.830 --> 00:04:41.070

nickysheats: Given to it so far has been in power plants because the missus for power plants is forms part of that disruption amount pollution. So we have to form, we should form a

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00:04:42.090 --> 00:04:56.430

nickysheats: climate change mitigation policy to typically focus on reducing carbon dioxide. We have to make sure that is reducing emissions of other pollutants that are emitted aloma calm dioxide in environmental justice neighborhoods.

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00:04:57.840 --> 00:05:08.340

nickysheats: And we've been saying for a while so reinforces that and hopefully other people. Now they see to see the covert crisis and how it's affecting black and brown people

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00:05:08.850 --> 00:05:19.080

nickysheats: Will realize that also. And I think the other thing this this reinforces is that, in general, we have to address racial issues.

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00:05:20.250 --> 00:05:29.280

nickysheats: Because we see again, people of color dine at higher rates black and brown people in the covert crisis and then other folks we see how insidious races.

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00:05:29.670 --> 00:05:43.530

nickysheats: Because who I wouldn't have thought that one thing that would would have put you at risk or the black moon, the more risk and Brown community more risk because of your race is the fact that a higher portion of us have to go out and

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00:05:44.820 --> 00:05:56.310

nickysheats: Physically do be at the location where a job. So, you know, I'm previous I don't have to do that but higher proportion of black and brown people do and that's put them more at risk.

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00:05:56.850 --> 00:06:06.870

nickysheats: And, you know, so there are a lot of ways that risk that race affects affects black and brown people and other people of color in our society.

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00:06:07.620 --> 00:06:15.750

nickysheats: We've been dealing with this racial issue for a long time and we need to redouble our efforts and of course was happening with the Black Lives Matter movement.

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00:06:17.190 --> 00:06:25.680

nickysheats: Shows that also the covert crisis shows that and we've we've seen it before and environmental field Katrina Flint.

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00:06:27.810 --> 00:06:32.970

nickysheats: Now, now this so hopefully at some point we'll get the message.

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00:06:34.830 --> 00:06:41.040

Mike Harrington: Thanks for sharing those ties and yeah, unfortunately, I've seen it happen in my family back in Chicago.

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00:06:41.340 --> 00:06:43.950

nickysheats: Co months ago. Okay, I'm sorry about that.

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00:06:44.430 --> 00:06:45.300

Mike Harrington: Oh, thanks.

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00:06:46.410 --> 00:06:54.450

Mike Harrington: But yeah, those, those that is yeah, those are very important ties to make. So I have just one last question, and

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00:06:55.710 --> 00:07:05.580

Mike Harrington: What message would you like to get out for ways that people can support the work that you're doing, or the work your organizations are doing or the communities, you're working with.

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00:07:06.960 --> 00:07:07.410

nickysheats: And

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00:07:08.040 --> 00:07:21.060

nickysheats: I think, and maybe we'll give them contact information so they can get ahold of us. We do need support for our policies. So, especially if they are in organizations.

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00:07:22.500 --> 00:07:38.730

nickysheats: public support for most organizations for our policies individual support with your legislators for our policies or, you know, but the governance officer Jersey for our policies would would help would help a lot.

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00:07:39.930 --> 00:07:48.690

nickysheats: If they want to get involved in our work, that would be great. Also, and we can you know we can we can arrange that.

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00:07:50.010 --> 00:07:56.010

nickysheats: So there are several ways they can get involved several ways they can help us and we can facilitate that.

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00:07:57.810 --> 00:08:04.860

Mike Harrington: Right, yeah. We'll make sure to share this when we if we do a blog post format will make sure to share that contact information.

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00:08:05.430 --> 00:08:14.430

Mike Harrington: And is there anything else that you'd like to add or anything else that you think would be useful for people to hear from you about this issue about these issues.

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00:08:15.960 --> 00:08:16.620

nickysheats: Um,

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00:08:17.310 --> 00:08:18.690

nickysheats: No, I, I, I'm

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00:08:20.820 --> 00:08:34.440

nickysheats: Hoping that out of crisis, something you know good in the long run can come and I you know I hope again that this shows the need to to talk about the covert crisis now to address.

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00:08:35.550 --> 00:08:38.250

nickysheats: Environmental justice issues and

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00:08:39.840 --> 00:08:49.500

nickysheats: You know, I guess, I guess we will see it in the long term, if it just has a long term impact that can somehow help environmental justice communities.

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00:08:52.200 --> 00:08:58.080

Mike Harrington: All right. Yeah, that was great. Say, like I said, this is taking longer than 15 minutes and I don't have any more questions.

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00:08:58.470 --> 00:09:08.190

Mike Harrington: That was really great. Nikki, thanks for sharing that information and putting it so concisely. I mean, you're a lawyer, so of course you should know that that goes with the territory, but I'm

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00:09:08.640 --> 00:09:10.650

nickysheats: Helps it helps it hurts. Sometimes

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00:09:10.800 --> 00:09:21.360

Mike Harrington: Yeah, but no thank you a lot for taking time out of your day to do this. And yeah, like I said, I will let you know once we've edited and we'll send it to you to see what you

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00:09:21.840 --> 00:09:28.350

Mike Harrington: You know if you have any comments or if you want to add anything, but otherwise that's that's pretty much all I need. And

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00:09:29.010 --> 00:09:39.690

Mike Harrington: Hopefully we can I want to get this back to you within the next month or so because we're doing a few interviews. So probably start editing them all at the same time. So it shouldn't take that long, because this is it that long, but

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00:09:40.080 --> 00:09:43.770

nickysheats: I really appreciate it. No rush on my part, Mike. Thanks. Thanks.

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00:09:43.770 --> 00:09:44.250

nickysheats: For doing it.

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00:09:45.180 --> 00:09:48.300

Mike Harrington: All right. Well, thank you, and have a nice rest your day and please stay safe and well

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00:09:48.660 --> 00:09:52.800

nickysheats: YouTube. YouTube. I hope your family is is better as well back Chicago

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00:09:54.030 --> 00:09:58.890

Mike Harrington: Where we're trying. I mean, like everything is kind of a lot going on.

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00:10:00.690 --> 00:10:06.150

Mike Harrington: My parents. Well, they're always worried about me but like i think they're especially worried now the big with these



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00:10:08.220 --> 00:10:23.580

Mike Harrington: Alleged suicide that look a lot like lynchings they're really worried about about that. I mean, they're always worried about me, of course. But like they're really worried now. Sorry I i'm i don't want to cause them any stress, but like, there's not much I can do about it.

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00:10:23.730 --> 00:10:27.420

nickysheats: Now, I saw them, but I didn't even know we're we're

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00:10:28.470 --> 00:10:30.930

nickysheats: Has there been more than one where they taken place.

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00:10:31.290 --> 00:10:41.880

Mike Harrington: I think there's been five in the last week there were two in California. There was one in Houston, one in New York City. And then one somewhere else.

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00:10:42.540 --> 00:10:44.670

nickysheats: Wow, I have to pay attention to this.

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00:10:46.020 --> 00:11:01.380

Mike Harrington: Yeah, I woke up Sunday and saw that like another person had been that it happened to give that I was like, which is terrifying. I was like, Oh my gosh, and they talk. My parents like yeah, we've seen that. Are you okay, it's kind of, it's. See, I mean like, yeah, it's pretty scary.

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00:11:02.220 --> 00:11:04.200

nickysheats: Where was the one in New York.

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00:11:07.050 --> 00:11:14.040

Mike Harrington: I don't know exactly where it was, it was like in a park or something. I think it must have a parks Hussein from

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00:11:16.500 --> 00:11:17.520

Mike Harrington: From a tree, but

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00:11:17.880 --> 00:11:19.200

Mike Harrington: It wasn't some Park.

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00:11:19.440 --> 00:11:22.950

nickysheats: Okay, I'm glad you mentioned this, I'm going to look it up now pay more attention.

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00:11:23.700 --> 00:11:34.020

Mike Harrington: Yeah, it was. It's already pretty shocking. It was terrible to read, especially now with the history that we have here. It's very disquieting. Yeah.

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00:11:34.290 --> 00:11:34.620

Yeah.

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00:11:35.820 --> 00:11:38.670

nickysheats: No. Well, okay, we say be careful.

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00:11:39.480 --> 00:11:42.300

Mike Harrington: Yeah, you too. And thanks again let me know if you need anything.

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00:11:42.690 --> 00:11:43.710

nickysheats: Okay. Thank you, Mike.

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00:11:44.070 --> 00:11:44.880

Mike Harrington: All right, bye.