



A new study suggests when a pregnant woman breathes in air pollution, it can travel to the placenta that guards her fetus. TERESA CRAWFORD/AP

# Study: Air pollution reaches placenta

Lauran Neergaard  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – A new study suggests that when a pregnant woman breathes in air pollution, it can travel beyond her lungs to the placenta that guards her fetus.

Pollution composed of tiny particles from car exhaust, factory smokestacks and other sources is dangerous to everyone’s health, and during pregnancy it’s been linked to premature births and low birth weight.

But scientists don’t understand why, something that could affect care for women in highly polluted areas. One theory is that the particles lodge in a mother’s lungs and trigger potentially harmful inflammation.

Tuesday, Belgian researchers reported another possibility, that any risk might be more direct.

A novel scanning technique spotted a type of particle pollution – sootlike black carbon – on placentas donated by 28 new mothers, they reported in Nature Communications.

The placenta nourishes a developing fetus and tries to block damaging substances in the mother’s bloodstream.

The Hasselt University team found the particles accumulated on the side of the placenta closest to the fetus, near where the umbilical cord emerges.

That’s not proof the soot actually crossed the placenta to reach the fetus – or that it’s responsible for any ill effects, cautioned Dr. Yoel Sadovsky of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a leading placenta expert who wasn’t involved with the new research.

And it’s a small study.

Still, “just finding it at the placenta is important,” Sadovsky said. “The next question would be how much of these black carbon particles need to be there to cause damage.”

Scientists already had some clues from animal studies that particles could reach the placenta, but Tuesday’s study is a first with human placentas. The Belgian researchers developed a way to scan placenta samples using ultra-short pulses from a laser that made the black carbon particles flash a bright white light, so they could be measured.

*The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Martin County Local Planning Agency will conduct public hearings on October 3, 2019, beginning at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the items may be heard, to review the following items:

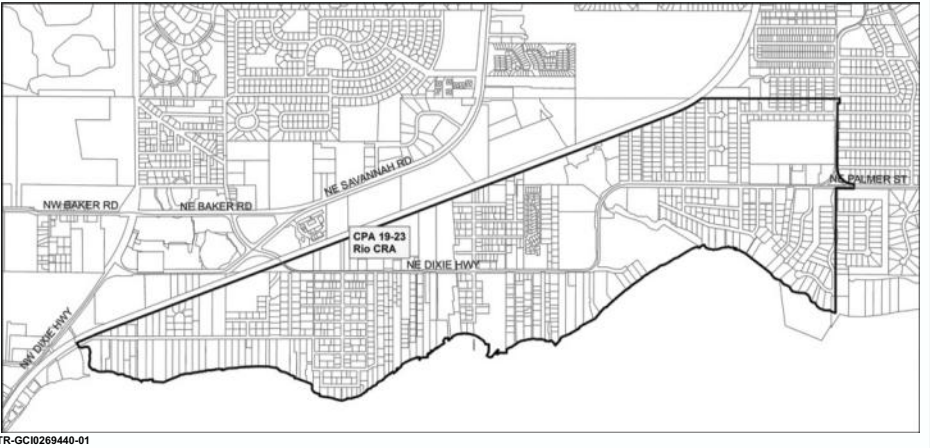
1. CPA 19-23, Rio FLUM, a proposal to amend the Future Land Use Map regarding the Rio Community Redevelopment Area (542 acres). The amendment will change the Residential Estate Density, Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Mobile Home, Commercial Office/Residential, Limited Commercial, and General Commercial future land use designations to CRA Center or CRA Neighborhood future land use designations and eliminate the Industrial Mixed-Use Overlay, Western Mixed-Use Overlay, Town Center Mixed Use Overlay and Eastern Mixed-Use Overlay.
2. A proposal to amend the Zoning Atlas regarding the Rio Community Redevelopment Area (542 acres). The amendment will change the R-1 (Single Family Residential), R-1A (Single Family Residential), R-2 (Single Family Residential), R-2B (Single Family Residential), R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential), R-3A (Liberal Multiple-Family), R-T (Mobile Home Subdivision), RS-6 (Medium Density Residential), HR-2 (Multiple-Family Residential), B-1 (Business), B-2 (Business Wholesale), COR-1 (Commercial Office/Residential), LC (Limited Commercial), GC (General Commercial), LI (Limited Industrial), to the Rio Redevelopment Zoning District and eliminate the Western Zoning Overlay, Town Center Zoning Overlay, Industrial Zoning Overlay, and Eastern Zoning Overlay.
3. The proposed adoption of an ordinance related to Martin County Land Development Regulations. The title of the ordinance is:

**AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING DIVISION 3, RIO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT CODE OF ARTICLE 12, REDEVELOPMENT CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY CODE; DELETING SECTION 3.264, RIO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA, AND MAKING AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ARTICLES, DIVISIONS OR SECTIONS OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL CONSISTENCY; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY, CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida. Written comments may be sent to: Nicki van Vonno, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Copies of the items will be available from the Growth Management Department. For more information, contact the Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



## NOTICE TO PATIENTS

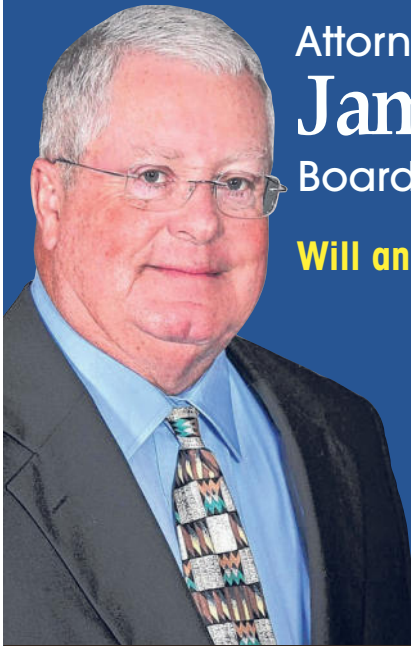
Dr. Jose A Suarez, Jr. announces his retirement from his practice at 6103 SE Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34997.

Effective: October 1, 2019  
Office Phone: 772-220-1666

Primary Care Associates will be the custodian of records for Dr. Suarez’s patients at the above address. Dr. Jamie Gomez will be assuming the continuation of care of his patients as of October 1, 2019 at the same office location.

TR-GC0257916-01

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