

## Misty Maza

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Thursday, July 6, 2023

## **Testimony by Nancy Osterweis Alderman to the New Haven Board of Alders for the meeting of July 6, 2023**

Good Evening to the Board of Alders,

The issue before all of us is Yale University's "renovations" to the Yale Golf Course, situated in the Westville section of New Haven, and why this has now become a problem for the whole city of New Haven.

As you all know extremely well, New Haven needs its tax base to function properly. There are a limited number of neighborhoods in the city that contribute a high rate of taxes to the city's coffers - and Westville is one of those neighborhoods. If for no other reason, it is critical that the city protect Westville and its citizens.

The reason we are here tonight is because Westville is under threat from Yale University's actions around, and on their Golf Course, situated in the heart of Westville's residential area.

If you cut down a lot of trees, as Yale has now done, we all know you will get soil erosion. As well, water will no longer be contained, and it will no longer drain well where the trees once stood. What happens then, is that the houses around the areas where the healthy large trees once stood will start to flood, and that is exactly what is happening.

What happens if you start to build a whole new road in a once protected land where there was never a road before, and by doing this, you disturb the land behind 20 homes on the quiet street of Longhill Terrace? Will that involve taking down more trees, and who will protect those homes?

Some entity must start to protect the residential homes in Westville from Yale's aggressive actions on and around their Golf Course. Up to now, Yale has gotten away with destructive actions, and no one has stopped them. If this continues, and no one stops them – they will continue making Westville more and more difficult to live in, and we know the city of New Haven does not want that.

Yale's future plans of filling in wetlands to extend one of their golf fairways does not look good, either for the environment or for the neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention to this ongoing problem,

Nancy Osterweis Alderman, Yale Class of 1994 and Yale MES from the Yale School of the Environment 1997 dated July 6, 2023