

NEW HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Laura Cahn, Chair --- Kathy Fay, Vice Chair --- Iris Kaminski, Secretary
Frank Douglass, Jr. --- Board of Alders Representative
Doreen Abubakar, Xochitl Garcia, Florestine Taylor

December 6, 2023

The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President
New Haven Board of Alders
City Hall
165 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510
(via email)

Re: Request for A Public Meeting to Discuss Lawn Pesticides and Artificial Turf

Madam President:

The Environmental Advisory Council requests that the Board of Alders hold a public meeting to discuss lawn pesticides and artificial turf. We have spent some years gathering facts concerning these two issues and would like to share them.

LAWN PESTICIDES – As you may recall, in 2017 the Board of Alders passed a resolution banning pesticides on lawns and gardens in our city. Unfortunately, they are still being used, though many of them have been proven ineffective and/or toxic. We know alders have concerns about lawn pesticides. At a recent CSEP hearing an alder asked about them. We would like to continue the discussion in more depth.

ARTIFICIAL TURF – New Haven has at least 10 artificial turf athletic playing fields (6 at Yale, 1 at SCSU, 1 each at Hillhouse and Wilbur Cross High Schools, 1 at Hopkins School). Hooker School is contemplating installing one on Whitney Avenue. Most artificial turf is contaminated with at least 12 carcinogens, including PFAS. The multi-layer plastic surface off-gases toxic chemicals and can measure up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than nearby soil. And it deteriorates and in 10 years or less and must be replaced. In addition, artificial turf requires detergents, pesticides, and water for maintenance.

We are concerned that New Haveners are being exposed to unnecessary airborne and waterborne toxins from lawn pesticides and artificial turf, which have detrimental effects on our health and environment.

Please contact Laura Cahn at laurasline@sbcglobal.net or 203/397-2338 (landline) with questions or concerns. Thank you for addressing pressing environmental issues.

Sincerely,

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council

Environment and Human Health, Inc. pesticides and turf information <https://www.ehhi.org/>

ATTACHMENTS:

Avoiding Lawn & Garden Pesticides, Margaret Harvey, CT Dept of Health Epidemiologist
PFAS Contamination, Anne Hulick, CT Director, Clean Water Action