

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 22, 2012
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 5155, MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE
APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Thanking you for your attention to this wrongly presented bill, I hope this gives you the opportunity to get educated about the hazards of pesticides and that we can finally put this issue to rest leaving our long sought cause to protect our children, by burying this bill. .

It is now one year shy, of being 50 years that, in 1963, our honorable Senator Abraham Ribicoff chaired a special Sub Committee Hearing on the use of Pesticides. The room was in total silence when Rachel Carson, author of "Silent Spring" gave her testimony about pesticides. She made it clear that to be protected from pesticides should be one of our human rights. She said, "We are challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery not of nature, but of ourselves." Senator Ribicoff, on hearing of Carson's death said, "We mourn a great lady. All mankind is in her debt"

I ask you why it is, after 50 years, that we are still defending our rights and fighting against the use of toxic pesticides. Back then it was demonstrated, and even now, after hundreds of studies and disastrous incidents with the use of pesticides, we are here to ask why so little has been done to protect the health of the children, and yes adults, the animals and the environment? Why are we so slow in learning and the government so slow to act to protect us? Is it that we have mentally deteriorated in our judgments, maybe not completely, but there is another answer if we don't want to admit our own short comings, and that is our complete disruption and corruption from the chemical companies to deceive us and to protect their billions. France and the Europeans are in litigations with Monsanto and Dow from the use of their chemicals and poisoning their farmers and land. They are hard to fight as Dick Roy told me, "They have more lawyers than we have money."

We know that the DEEP has not received an increase in monies for their department since their inception. It is also known that they cannot afford to educate landscapers in the use of IPM, or in monitoring its use. IPM, as a method of land care, is a misnomer. It gives them the freedom to use pesticides, by bypassing their own regulations, as it is easier and quicker to rid that dandelion with the pesticide. Pesticides are designed to kill and they do, all the good organisms that are part of a healthy soil. That is why you can't be organic, if you think spraying a pesticide now and then works, it doesn't. I ask you in Rachel Carson's words, please be your own master of good judgement and bury this bill.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Submitted by,
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I as Chair of the ECC in 2002, sponsored, with the cooperation of Mayor James Richitelli and the Board of Alderman , a Resolution in the non-use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on their lawns and yards. It was passed unanimously. It should be noted that our city does not use pesticides on public lands or parks and have not done so for the past 20 years.