

Thakiyah Yankowy on Dec 3rd 2020 Philadelphia City Council hearing about Healthy Outdoor Public Spaces.

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Hi, good morning everyone. My name is Thakiyah Ahmad Yankowy and I've been asked to testify on behalf of the Friends of Fern Hill Park to address the Philadelphia City Council bill 200425, the Healthy Outdoor Public Spaces bill, by Committee on Public Health & Human Services.

I'm also a 13th Ward Committee Person, a member of Neighbors Against the Gas Plants, a community liaison for Philadelphia Jobs Corps, a block captain for the 400 block of West Abbotsford Avenue, and a wife and mother of 3.

And I can tell you that our community is in support of the Healthy Outdoor Public Spaces bill introduced by Councilwoman Cindy Bass. I've lived across the street from the Fern Hill Park for the last 17 years. The park is a green space used by not just our community but the community at large. It is located in the Southwest Germantown section of Philadelphia, so its used by those neighbors, the East Falls neighbors, Nicetown neighbors, the John B Kelly school and the Wissahickon Charter School for recess, physical education and a conducive resource for the students emotional and physical development. They also help with park cleanup.

I'm here to ask that you please consider non toxic methods to treat our park and green spaces. Pesticides... Children of our Nicetown community have the highest asthma rates in the entire City of Philadelphia and they rank within the top 10 of our country.

Unfortunately when pesticides are used, they don't just stay in place. And even if they did, our children don't. These chemicals spread with the wind to become a part of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and they are trapped into our homes, and they cover our children's hands, feet and skin.

So today I ask you... Please open your hearts to making PHL healthier place for all of us, especially to create a healthier future for our children.

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