

Public Comments on Item O30.094

Hello, My Name is Sarah Vazquez and I live at 117 Bridge Street in Stamford. I'm in full support of the proposed Ordinance Item O30.094. Thank you.

Sarah Vazquez
117 Bridge Street

My name is Ingrid Kaatz and I live in North Stamford and have enjoyed the beautiful and natural environment there. I support limiting the use of pesticides to organic only in public areas. I wish that could be expanded to private owned lands as well. However this proposal is a good start. It is very important to me that everyone can live in a safe, natural and healthy environment.

Ingrid Kaatz
40 Apple Valley Road

I support this ordinance. It is vital that pollinators be protected.

Gilbert Herman
52 Wilder Rd

I support Ordinance O030.094 to prohibit the use of non-organic pesticides and other toxic substances on city owned properties. Pesticides are known to affect many of our body systems and organs including the endocrine system, brain, liver, kidneys, and digestive system. Some pesticides have proven to cause neurological problems in children, specifically autism and ADHD. PLEASE keep your citizens of Stamford safe by voting in favor of Ordinance O30.094. Respectfully,

Denise Marcil
483 Westover Rd.

Thank you for the opportunity to address Stamford lawmakers on this important issue. I am Drew Toher, community resource and policy director at Beyond Pesticides, a national, grassroots organization aimed at improving protections from pesticides and promoting alternatives to their use. We are submitting this statement on behalf of our supporters in Stamford. Beyond Pesticides applauds the Stamford Board of Representatives for its work, and strongly encourages passage of Ordinance #O30.094. Implementing this ordinance will help the city shift to sustainable land management practices, ensuring that the products and practices used in Stamford are compatible with organic systems that protect people and local ecology. This approach to pesticide reform will effectively stop the unnecessary use of hazardous pesticides applied for aesthetic purposes. The Board's action on this issue comes at an incredibly important time. As the science on the dangers pesticides pose to health and the environment continues

to accumulate, a weakened EPA continues to register and reregister toxic pesticides. Pesticides used in turf management can exacerbate underlying conditions and increase vulnerability to covid and other diseases. Children, pregnant mothers, the elderly, low income, and people of color communities are disproportionately impacted by toxic pesticide exposure. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are dying off, and the pesticides that harm these important species also contaminate local waterways. The good news is that viable, effective, and economical alternatives to the use of toxic lawn and landscape pesticides are available. While chemical-intensive landscape management programs generally center on a synthetic product approach that continually treats the symptoms of turf problems with toxic chemicals, the alternative, natural approach focuses on the root causes of pest problems, which lie in the soil. These cutting-edge land management techniques reveal that toxic pesticides are not needed for successful turf management. Although there is often significant discussion over the expense of transitioning to an organic land care program, as CT DEEP notes, "If your lawn is currently chemically dependent, initially it may be more expensive to restore it. But in the long- term, an organic lawn will actually cost you less money. Once established, an organic lawn uses less water and fertilizers, and requires less labor for mowing and maintenance." Beyond Pesticides has found that new practices and technologies have cut time to cost parity down significantly. A range of resources are available to assist Stamford towards a successful transition, including UCONN and NOFA-CT. Beyond Pesticides also remains available to provide implementation assistance for this ordinance. We again urge passage of Ordinance #O30.094 and thank you for your time.

Drew Toher
701 E St SE Washington DC 20003

Members of the Operations Committee, Board of Reps at Large, and Mayor Martin, I am writing as a citizen of Stamford as well as a representative of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust of which I am Vice President. We strongly urge the committee and board to pass the ordinance prohibiting the use of non organic pesticides on city property (Proposed Ordinance O30.094). We appreciate the City of Stamford being a leader in implementing safer land management practices. Passing this ordinance is an important long term investment in the health of our city, community and environment.

Annie Selkovits Taylor
219 Old Long Ridge Rd.

Dear President Quinones and Members of the Board:
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is pleased to support proposed ordinance O30.094 Prohibiting the Use and Application of Non-Organic Pesticides, Fungicides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides or Fertilizer on City-Owned Properties. By passing this ordinance the City of Stamford will foster a healthier more livable city. It will also help declining pollinator populations. Pesticide use, along with climate change, loss of habitat and disease, are drivers in pollinator decline. Urban and suburban communities – with their stable and diverse habitat – are an important refuge for pollinators. By transitioning to ecologically-sound pest management practices, Stamford will increase the value of their parks and open spaces for bees and other pollinators. Recent focus on pollinator health has uncovered significant harm from commonplace legal pesticide use. Federal pesticide regulations do not guarantee that pesticides are safe. Rather the U.S Environmental Protection Agency weighs the costs and benefits

of pesticide use, accepting some risk because of the perceived benefit. Furthermore, the federal pesticide registration process can underestimate risk. For example, it does not account for the risks of pesticide combinations. Yet, pesticides are often found in combination and these combinations can increase bee mortality (see the recent article in Nature at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03787-7?proof=t%2Btarget%3D>). Fortunately, the growing number of communities that have switched to more ecologically-sound pest management demonstrate that we don't need to be reliant on pesticides. Effective and feasible alternative practices exist. Thank you for considering this ordinance. Your dedication to creating a healthier community is laudable. I look forward to seeing how this important effort unfolds. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Sincerely,

Aimee Code
Pesticide Program Director
628 N.E. Broadway Ave Suite 200, Portland, OR

As a co-founder of Pollinator Pathway Stamford, I am very much in favor of O30.094 being passed for the city. Experts will be speaking on the more specific aspects of this ordinance and I concur with what they are presenting. Please know that with respect to the commissions time, I am submitting this rather than speaking. Thank you for your consideration.

Becky Collins
18 Tremont Avenue

To whom it may concern:

As a Stamford resident and a resident of our planet as a whole, I am deeply concerned about the continuous poisoning of our land. With the disappearance of natural land, we all have a responsibility to keep our public and private spaces which we share with wildlife, as healthy as possible. Health doesn't come from a toxic spray or synthetic poison. It comes from the respect for nature and the awareness that we are all in this together.

To this end, I wish to inform you that I'm in full support of the proposed Ordinance Item O30.094.

If Government doesn't set an example, how do we educate the public? Silent Spring was written in the 60s and yet, people haven't learned anything at all. To date, the first thing that one sees when walking into any hardware store are gallon jugs of Round UP, one of the worst toxic substances ever made. The least we can do as responsible humans is to have a Government that steps up and does the right thing. It couldn't be simpler: Stop using Poison. Full stop.
Choose plants that fit the location, always favour native plants that actually belong here and there is no Need to coddle them in the first place.

Thank you for your consideration.
Regards,
Constance Dave

I strongly support this proposed ban on all non-organic pesticides, etc. on city owned properties. It is a great first step towards getting rid of them all together. Thank you.

Laurie Doig
6 Howes Avenue

I am an avid gardener. I have become a member of the Pollinator Pathway. I am very concerned about the loss of our bees and butterflies and other pollinators. I am now treating my yard with organic substances. Please support this bill. Our food supply is in great danger with the loss of our pollinators. I have registered my yard as a member of the Pollinator Pathway. I now use organics to treat my flowers and grass. I am very concerned about the drop in the bees and pollinators that I see in my yard. I fear our food supply will be in great danger if we do not act now. Please support this effort. It can only benefit us. Thank you.

Geraldine Nuzzo
759 Scofieldtown Rd.
