

**A Resolution
Regarding Natural Turf Care to Protect Human Health and the Environment**

*** Regarding Dangers to Health ***

WHEREAS human beings are vulnerable to harms caused by synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, including but not limited to cancers, neurodevelopmental defects, respiratory problems, hormone disruption, and cutaneous toxicity; *and*

WHEREAS children and pets are particularly vulnerable to these effects due to their small body size, the likelihood of exposure, and other factors; *and*

WHEREAS the State of Connecticut's Public Act 09-56, adopted in recognition of the health risks posed by lawn-care chemicals, prohibits the use of EPA-registered pesticides and fertilizer-pesticide combinations on the grounds of day-care facilities and K-8 schools, with exceptions only for conditions that endanger the health of those using those grounds; *and*

WHEREAS Federal registration of pesticides and small temporary signs notifying the public of recent pesticide applications have limited value in preventing exposure and guaranteeing public safety, in part because exposure may be airborne; *and*

WHEREAS in the case of suspected harms to human beings and to the environment it is generally considered prudent to prevent exposure, rather than to treat resulting illness or disease; *and*

*** Regarding Dangers to the Larger Eco-System ***

WHEREAS run-off of pesticides can contaminate groundwater and surface water bodies, including sources of drinking water, posing risks to aquatic life and other organisms exposed to or consuming such contaminated water; *and*

WHEREAS run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus from synthetic fertilizers stimulates the growth of aquatic plants such as algae and invasive plants such as water chestnut, and can result in hypoxia (absence of oxygen), which in turn can kill fish, amphibians, and other water-dwelling organisms; *and*

WHEREAS many scientific studies have cited widespread use of lawn chemicals as a primary factor in the serious degradation and declining fish populations of Long Island Sound; *and*

WHEREAS the industrial production of nitrogen-based fertilizers releases nitrogen oxide and large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, exacerbating the "greenhouse effect"; *and*

*** Regarding the Quality of Sports Playing Fields ***

WHEREAS synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are toxic to beneficial organisms in soil that are critical to the cultivation of natural grass playing fields; *and*

WHEREAS non-toxic and cost-effective methods of sports field maintenance, including application of compost and other soil amendments, irrigation, and careful use of non-synthetic fertilizers, have proven successful in other communities, promoting healthy soil biology, deep root systems, and proper drainage; *and*

WHEREAS Middletown residents have expressed their desire for high-quality natural grass sports playing fields and for minimizing the use of toxic and synthetic chemicals; *and*

WHEREAS Middletown has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and stewardship in the areas of public health, environmental protection, and horticultural best practices,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in the interest of protecting children's health, as intended by the State of Connecticut's Public Act 09-56, and extending the Act's safeguards to older children, adults, other living creatures, and the environment, the provisions of the Act be applied to ALL publicly funded parks, fields, and other properties where children are likely to be present, including for non-school-related activities; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all publicly funded new playing fields and other recreation facilities, as well as all renovations of existing public playing fields, be planned, designed, and constructed according to best practices and current research so as to optimize the conditions for maintaining these facilities without the use of synthetic fertilizers or toxic pesticides.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Sponsoring organizations:

Sponsoring City of Middletown Officials

Sponsoring Residents of Middletown:

Sponsoring Non-Residents who work, visit, or have school-related interests in Middletown: