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Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:13 AM
To: City Council - All
Subject: Air Pollution & Covid-19

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Dear Council,

I hope that this email finds you well, and that you all remain so during this difficult time. I ask that you please take steps to protect our community from unnecessary sources of pollution that harm our immune and respiratory systems, making us vulnerable to the novel coronavirus.

[Harvard University just released a study](#) linking higher fine particulate air pollution to higher death rates from Covid-19. They found that even small increments in the level of pollution made a difference.

Did you know that even [small amounts of particulate matter](#), below the levels set as safe by the EPA are shown to increase risk of intrauterine inflammation in pregnant women? This condition is linked to many negative health outcomes for their children, like neurodevelopmental disorders and asthma. These disorders last a lifetime. Seemingly small exposures really matter!

In my neighborhood, and no doubt elsewhere in Dover, the landscaping crews are out in force to do spring "clean up." The irony in this is that they aren't actually cleaning up, but rather polluting our air with fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) and other toxic air pollutants.

Please print and save: <http://grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/gasleaflyer.pdf>

Gas leaf blowers pollute far more than cars. Just one hour of gas leaf blower operation emits pollution comparable to driving 1100 miles - the distance from Los Angeles to Denver [according to the California Air Resources Board](#).

My son and I were driven inside due to the fumes blowing into our yard from a crew of four who spent EIGHT HOURS in our neighborhood just on Monday alone. There have been crews here every day since.

Add to this the fact that the lawn chemical trucks are now making the rounds and applying cosmetic pesticides to wipe out dandelions, clover and violets, so when the mow and blow crews come, they launch these toxicants into the air, suspended for hours for everyone to breathe in addition to the pollutants released from the two stroke engines, and the pollen, feces, mold and other respiratory irritants being stirred up.

While I am aware that you have no power to regulate pesticide use on private property, you do have the power to restrict the use of gas leaf blowers both temporarily and in the long term. I hope that during tonight's council meeting, you will discuss this as a way you can take action to make our community safer during a time when we need to spend time outdoors for physical and mental health.

No one should be forced to breathe in pollutants that increase their risk of death and disease when they step outdoors to get fresh air. Workers exposed to this pollution all day are at even higher risk than the general public. They deserve to be protected too.

Please pass a resolution to restrict the use of highly polluting gas leaf blowers during the stay at home order - and please consider extending it after, just as hundreds of other municipalities throughout the country have.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your efforts thus far to protect public health with regard to pesticide use on city property. Your work is appreciated.

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[Non Toxic Communities](#)

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