

Dear City Officials,

I understand field space is incredibly important for students.

However, I have been shocked to learn about the health impacts that the proposed FIFA-grade artificial turf that would be installed in Central Tech's currently contaminated field. According to recent research findings and evidence, it could in fact have a far more grave impact on the health of students than the turf would itself.

Central Tech students and their families are possibly not aware of the controversy surrounding this topic. NBC currently did a news piece examining the possible link between artificial turf and cancer, citing an alarming number of children who have played on artificial turf and soon gotten cancer - this seems to affect goalies especially. Blood cancers like lymphoma and leukemia dominate the shocking list.

"During the past two decades, there have been more than 60 technical studies and reports that review the health effects of crumb rubber as it pertains to toxicities from inhalation, ingestion and dermal contact, as well as cancer," the Synthetic Turf Council, an industry group, said Thursday in a statement responding to the initial NBC News report. An official study on what effects exposure to the chemicals in crumb rubber turf fields might have on athletes has been requested by the US Federal government's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

A former soccer player interviewed for the piece who now has cancer is quoted saying that after playing on the artificial turf she would "have little black dots (from the crumb rubber) in her ears and nose."

With such intensely serious health impacts of artificial turf now going under federal investigation, it is your responsibility as city officials - and perhaps parents yourselves - to shut down the proposal now going to the OMB to install artificial turf.

Seeing as how the field is contaminated, what an opportunity for students to participate in the planning and safe installation of a new natural field that they can be proud of - and safe on.

Thank you for reviewing my request.

Lenni Jabour