

Madalyn Letellier

From: eileen carranza [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 5:00 PM
To: Matthew McLaughlin; [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comments
Concern

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Eileen A Carranza and I am a resident of East Somerville. I would like to raise some concerns I have regarding what I observed yesterday October 3, 2024 while picking up my son from the afterschool program at the Capuano.

There were multiple children and adults outside using the playground and the after school per their schedule and daily routine take the children outside. As I picked up my son there were two gentlemen from the CleanCo, contracted by the city of somerville to clear leaves.

There are a few issues with this. First, they started using gasoline powered leaf blowers with many children and adults around. The children are breathing these fumes which as you are aware can cause nose and throat irritation among other ailments. Also there are people and children with asthma and allergies that this could impact as it was blowing everything, at one point i observed a child running away rubbing his eyes and coughing as they had no regard of where children were.

Secondly the noise. Some leaf blowers can reach noise decibels of 100 which after sufficient exposure can start to cause hearing loss.

I understand the city needs to maintain it's appearance and it's grounds but how does the city contract with companies with no regards for safety. Also Somerville continues to state they want to be climate friendly and reducing carbon footprint, yet you are contracting your services to a company who continues to gas powered leaf blowers as well as creating noise pollution. We continue to state that we are trying to create a better future for kids and the environment yet is what is happening?

I'm not sure what is going on with somerville but it seems to me there is lack of awareness or investigation regarding companies the city is contracting with. In general there usually is a bidding process and the one with best services and rates are awarded the contract. Being cheaper doesn't always mean what is best for the community or in this case the children.

I also work for the department of early education and family daycare and groups programs must abide by regulations put forth by the state. It is difficult for them to do so when they need to bring children outdoors for gross motor development and outdoor time, when the city is having no regards or awareness of what time the programs operate until serving our most vulnerable populations.

I have a video of the situation and you will see and hear what I'm bringing to your attention. I would like to add that i am aware there these gentlemen were not at fault and were following higher chain of command and I did discuss this with them. Also they were not wearing headphones or ear protectors once again the company you are contracting with has no regards for the health and safety of their employees.

Sincerely,

Eileen A Carranza