



May 20, 2019

Donny Gonzalez  
Deputy Director of Facilities Management  
D.C. Department of General Services

Dave Tomlinson  
Associate Director, Toxic Substances Division  
Environmental Services Administration  
D.C. Department of Energy & Environment

Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Tomlinson,

ANC3C requests action based on a [recent WJLA story](#) that highlighted potential dangers at pour-in-place playgrounds, specifically high levels of lead in recycled tires used as a surface of the playground. An Arkansas lab tested the recycled tires at Janney Elementary School playground. The results showed lead levels well beyond permissible limits; one sample had 1,000 parts per million while another had 7,000 parts per million. The maximum level of lead permitted in children's toys is 100 parts per million.

[Several playgrounds](#) within ANC3C have similar pour-in-place playgrounds: 1) Newark Street playground at Newark and 39th Streets NW; 2) John Eaton Elementary School at 3201 34th St. NW; and 3) Oyster Bilingual School at 2801 Calvert Street NW.

After receiving inquiries from a resident who lives near the playground and an ANC commissioner whose district includes the playground, Councilmember Mary Cheh requested that your departments investigate the Newark Street playground. We request that you also investigate the playgrounds at John Eaton and Oyster as soon as possible to determine if a health threat to children exists and report your findings back to ANC3C and the community. If you find unsafe or elevated levels of lead, we request you promptly take appropriate action, such as posting warning signs or closing the playgrounds altogether.

This letter was approved by ANC3C at a noticed public meeting.

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nancy MacWood  
Chair, ANC3C

cc:

Paul Kihn  
Deputy Mayor for Education

Delano Hunter  
Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation

John Stokes  
Interim Associate Director of External Affairs  
Department of General Services

Tommie Jones  
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Wendell Davis  
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