



202300789

Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

March 3, 2023

MOTION

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) & Forever Chemicals in Cincinnati

To develop a plan on how best to address the issue of PFAS—commonly known as “forever chemicals”—in public city-owned spaces in the City of Cincinnati, WE MOVE that, the Administration report back to Council within ninety (90) days on:

- An assessment of what Cincinnati Fire Department’s protective equipment contains forever chemicals currently and recommendations on the cost and feasibility of CFD using available alternatives.
- A list of all City facilities that have artificial turf. This should include an assessment of whether or not that artificial turf contains forever chemicals or crumb rubber (also called beads).
- The costs and feasibility of exploring alternatives to using artificial turf that contain forever chemicals in City-owned properties, both in new developments and for replacing existing artificial turf in the City.
- Recommendations on what steps can be taken at City landfills and other City facilities to prevent leeching of forever chemicals into the environment, particularly the air and waterways.
- The cost and feasibility of testing or monitoring the City’s playgrounds, fields, waterways, and other City facilities for PFAS and other forever chemicals.

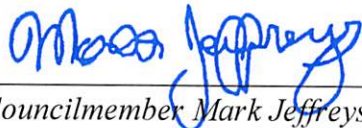
STATEMENT

Forever chemicals are known to have significantly negative impacts on both humans and wildlife. PFOA and PFOS, two of the most studied “forever chemicals” have been shown to intervene with the hormonal system, the reproductive system, and the development of the fetus. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has shown the health effects associated with PFAS exposure include cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease. These forever chemicals are virtually impossible to break down and remain in the human or animal system for years.

As a result of recent studies on the impact of PFAS, a number of manufacturers including 3M have announced in the last few months that they will phase out the manufacture of forever chemicals and promote substitutes for these. At the same time, there have been advances in alternative ingredients or solutions.

PFAS is used in a wide range of products ranging from food packaging, non-stick cookware, textiles such as waterproof outdoor clothing, cosmetics, and outdoor equipment such as artificial turf. When it comes to the City of Cincinnati and forever chemicals, the most prevalent uses are with protective gear used by firefighters and artificial turf used in many outdoor spaces. There is a concern that forever chemicals are leeching into the environment and having a negative impact on the health of our firefighters. In a hearing before City Council's Climate Environment & Infrastructure Committee in February 2023, it was also shared that forever chemicals are contained in areas such as landfills in the city limits, but it is unclear if there are any steps that can be taken to prevent the leeching of them into the surrounding environment.

To assess the best path forward, this motion asks to understand the cost and feasibility of transitioning away from using products that contain forever chemicals. It also asks for any potential steps that can be taken to prevent the leeching of forever chemicals at large industrial facilities such as landfills.


Councilmember Mark Jeffreys


Councilmember Meeka Owens

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Officer D. Brown

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