



**Environmental Commission**  
**Environmental Health Subcommittee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
December 1, 2022

**AGENDA**

**LOCATION:** City Hall 7AN & Webex

**CHAIR CANDACE THOMPSON PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:** [6]

Candace Thompson, District 4	* Dr. Folashade Afolabi, General Public
* Haddijatou Bayo, P.E., General Public	* Dr. Sarah Ashitey, General Public
*** Renee Roberson, District 8	* Dr. Barry Lachman, District 12 (alternate)

**ABSENT:** [0]

*\*Note: Members of the Environmental Health Committee participated in this meeting by video conference.*

*\*\*Note: Indicates arrival time after meeting called to order/reconvened*

The meeting was called to order at 6:20p.m. with a quorum of the Environmental Health Committee present.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

- I. Georgiann Jijon
  - a. Regarding vaping/e-cigarettes, look into the environmental impact of related plastic waste.
  - b. Regarding concrete batch plant emissions, safe distance may depend on what VOCs are being emitted.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- I) **Follow-up on research done by the Environmental Health Committee on topics discussed during the previous meeting:**
  - a) **Vaping Policies**
    - i) Dr. Afolabi
      - (1) Adolescents are more likely to smoke e-cigarettes than combustible cigarettes, but also more likely to have asthma exacerbations. Secondhand smoke exacerbates asthma as well.

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- (2) A study showed that nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) wasn't as effective in helping individuals quit smoking combustible cigarettes as vaping was, but studies also show that many people who vape also smoke combustible cigarettes.
- (3) Adverse lung effects of e-cigarettes: contain polyethylene glycol and glycerin; leads to decreased surfactant, decreased mucociliary beat frequency, abnormal lung architecture, increased pulmonary inflammatory markers.
- (4) E-cigarettes are a gateway to combustible cigarettes for teenagers.
- (5) When vaping marijuana, vitamin E acetate is used (very caustic to the lungs).
- (6) Relevant articles:
  - (a) <https://www.fda.gov/media/158015/download>
  - (b) <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-finalizes-enforcement-policy-unauthorized-flavored-cartridge-based-e-cigarettes-appeal-children>
  - (c) <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/research/evaluating-potential-impact-menthol-ban-cigarettes-and-e-cigarettes-among-current-menthol-smokers>
  - (d) [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(22\)00098-8/fulltext](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(22)00098-8/fulltext)
    - (i) Association between e-cigarette in asthma and adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis
    - (ii) Overall, e-cigarette use was associated with significantly higher odds of having asthma (pooled OR=1.31, 95% CI=1.22, 1.42) than nonuse, and both current use (OR=1.36, 95% CI=1.26, 1.48) and ever use (OR=1.20, 95% CI=1.12, 1.28) showed similar associations
  - (e) [https://click.endnote.com/viewer?doi=10.1101%2F2022.08.16.501319&token=WzM1MzYxODcsljEwLjExMDEvMjAyMi4wOC4xNi41MDEzMTkiXQ.eFiUwOsCfsmLa9eVoWNOy\\_f7jOc](https://click.endnote.com/viewer?doi=10.1101%2F2022.08.16.501319&token=WzM1MzYxODcsljEwLjExMDEvMjAyMi4wOC4xNi41MDEzMTkiXQ.eFiUwOsCfsmLa9eVoWNOy_f7jOc)
  - (f) E-cigarette aerosol exposure of pulmonary surfactant impairs its surface tension reducing function
    - (i) Two e-liquid flavors, menthol and red wedding, have further detrimental effects, resulting in higher surface tension.
  - (g) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9549247/>
    - (i) Vegetable glycerin e-cigarette aerosols cause airway inflammation and ion channel dysfunction
  - (h) <https://click.endnote.com/viewer?doi=10.1146%2Fannurev-pharmtox-042921-084202&token=WzM1MzYxODcsljEwLjExNDYvYVW5udXJldi1waGFybXRveC0wNDI5MjEtMDg0MjAyIjI0.v48tuWSdEoCE8G08uDWxxwMxPbM>
    - (i) E-cigarette toxicology; review of adverse effects of e-cigarettes
  - (i) <https://click.endnote.com/viewer?doi=10.1001%2Fjama.2022.14847&token=WzM1MzYxODcsljEwLjEwMDEvamFtYS4yMDIvLjE0ODQ3IiI0.3U1h3GTLldtsG1USeKH178QwaY>
    - (i) Trends in urinary biomarkers of exposure to nicotine and carcinogens among adult e-cigarette smoking; increased nicotine exposure due to increased use of e-cigarette.
- ii) Dr. Ashitey
  - (1) Elaborate on lung injury due to secondhand exposure.
    - (a) Dr. Afolabi: There is data regarding secondhand exposure causing increased asthma exacerbations.
- iii) Dr. Lachman
  - (1) Consider vaping policies in other cities. Houston added vaping to their smoking statute. Dallas does not have such a policy.
- iv) Haddijatou Bayo
  - (1) Is it correct that it doesn't matter that e-cigarettes don't contain tobacco, as there are other elements that cause issues?
  - (2) Dr. Afolabi: Correct!
- v) Haddijatou Bayo

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- (1) Some hookah lounges don't require an ID, since there is no tobacco.
  - (2) Every major city and some small cities in Texas have some sort of ban on e-cigarettes. Most lumped in e-cigarettes with their definition of smoking.
  - (3) In Houston, 11% of high schoolers and 10% of middle schoolers were using e-cigarettes (up from 7% in 2017).
  - (4) San Francisco has banned all e-cigarettes (sale, distribution, and manufacturing).
  - (5) Los Angeles banned sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes.
  - (6) Many of the bans have exceptions.
- vi) Dr. Lachman
- (1) Can look at FDA recommendations related to flavored cigarettes. They are not in favor, as this serves as a gateway for youth to begin smoking.
  - (2) Emphasis on proving harm to further the case.
- vii) Dr. Afolabi
- (1) Some cities banned menthol products. In these cities, e-cigarette use wasn't increasing as rapidly. Understanding is that the FDA has banned all flavored products, with the exception of menthol.
  - (2) Decisions to not ban menthol raise equity concerns, as it is most frequently used among Black populations. Support banning all flavored products, including menthol.
- viii) Renee Roberson
- (1) There may be special interests/politics behind decisions not to ban menthol (menthol also drives profits).
  - (2) Emphasis on need to de-glamorize smoking/vaping.
  - (3) Will look into FDA recommendations.
  - (4) Support of including e-cigarettes in the definition of cigarettes.
- ix) Candace Thompson
- (1) This demonstrates the need for education and public awareness related to adverse health impacts around vaping/e-cigarettes.
- x) Dr. Lachman
- (1) Health effects of menthol e-cigarettes: Causes biophysical inhibition of pulmonary surfactant.
- xi) Candace Thompson
- (1) Let's put together a compelling case against e-cigarettes and menthol, based on our lit review, to inform our formal recommendation.
- xii) Renee Roberson
- (1) Idea to use this campaign in protest of circumstances around Brittney Griner's imprisonment.
- xiii) Dr. Lachman
- (1) Another argument against e-cigarettes: Make a religious connection related to promoting profit over the health of children (unethical in all major religions).
  - (2) We need an economic case as well. Public cost related to ER admissions for asthma.

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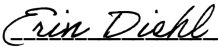
### II) Batch Plant Emissions

- a) Candace Thompson
  - i) Based on research, a specific safe distance (that would not produce adverse health outcomes) of residence from batch plants is unclear.
- b) Dr. Afolabi
  - i) Could use the safe distance from transportation pollution as an indicator.
- c) Dr. Ashitey
  - i) Will look into further: study on degrees of exposure to elements in cement dust and health implications from living/working within the vicinity.
  - ii) It looks like this will be useful in assessing health impact based on distance.
- d) Haddijatou Bayo
  - i) List of chemicals emitted by batch plants.
- e) Renee Roberson
  - i) Will reach out to contacts for more information on substances batch plants emit.
- f) Dr. Lachman
  - i) Suggest adding a future agenda item on health and climate change effects related to plastic.
  - ii) EPA has recommended standards related to particulates.
  - iii) Regarding indoor air quality, disappointed by Code Enforcement's response to changes in Ch. 27. Would like to have a future discussion on this.
- g) Candace Thompson
  - i) Let's conduct further research on buffer zones.
  - ii) Next meeting: February 2, 2023 6:15PM

### ADJOURNMENT

After all business of the Environmental Health Committee had been considered, Dr. Afolabi moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Haddijatou Bayo and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Health Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:22p.m.


ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
OF DECEMBER 1, 2022

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Drafted by:  
Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

12/6/2022

Date

  
[Candace Thompson \(Dec 8, 2022 21:11 CST\)](#) \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:  
Candace Thompson, Chair  
Environmental Health Committee

Dec 8, 2022

Date

**Attachments:**  
[Meeting Recording](#)