

**This is a request to appear before City Council on December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I will be discussing the redevelopment of the Regent Par III Golf Course. My name is: Keisha Nova Nginhena. My address is: [REDACTED] My phone number is [REDACTED].**

**The following is a written summary of what I will be presenting:**

**My name is Keisha Nova Nginhena I am here tonight to oppose the redevelopment of the Regent Par III Golf Course into a recreation hub. It is important that the trees on the land not be destroyed.**

Healthy forests are the most efficient, inexpensive, and natural systems to combat climate change. From a climate change and an ecological perspective we know that urban forest management is critical to the future of the planet and that city forests have been found to play a major role in climate change mitigation (Brandt, 2016).

Urban forests contribute to maintaining clean air, they produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates and reduce smog. They filter air and water, control storm water, conserve energy, and add beauty, form, and structure to urban design. They also enhance a community's respiratory health.

In addition, urban forests have been shown to promote good mental health, general well-being, reduce stress and reduce the incidence of obesity, asthma, and diabetes. Moreover, they reduce crime rates and violence.

Urban forests provide an animal habitat. Destruction of urban forests displaces wildlife that has lived there for numerous generations and many do not survive.

Urban forests are dynamic ecosystems that provide critical benefits to people and wildlife. Destruction of the urban forest on the Regent Par III Golf Course land will cause problems in all of the areas I have mentioned. On behalf of my generation and future generations I am here to advise you that the majority do not approve of the removal any of the trees on this land.

In a time when people are recognizing the potential for world crisis through climate change and when it is well known that the most effective way to fight climate change is to plant trees, it is disturbing that our local government would propose the destruction of trees in favor of building a sports field. Global tree restoration is a priority in most countries around the world and it should be in the Queen City as well.

It is wrong to destroy the trees on the golf course land. Even if, as you say, there are those that are old and suffering from drought. None of the trees on the golf course land should be cut down. They should be nurtured, protected and allowed to regenerate into an ongoing urban forest.

For these reasons and others I am opposed to building a recreation hub on the Regent Par III Golf Course land.