

LATIN AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS ORGANIZATIONS OF RHODE ISLAND, INC. (OPLARI)

FOUNDED JULY 24, 1983

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April 16, 1999



Page 1 of 4

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797 Westminster Street

Providence, R.I. 02903

RE: Hartford Avenue and Springfield Street Project

On April 12, 1999 during a regularly scheduled meeting of the school Board of the City of Providence several issues were presented to the board by our president, Mr. Rodolfo A. Vargas. Due to your absence from the meeting, we decided to send you our concerns and request in writing. Our concerns regarding Resolution 173 of April 12, 1999 agenda requesting the approval of site selection and financing of 1999 school construction projects are listed below.

As you are maybe aware, we are strongly concerned and continue to consider being unacceptable a policy of building schools on top of a closed landfill. The present concern is not limited to the proposal for construction listed in Resolution No. 173. But, any future Resolutions contemplated by the School Board of the City of Providence with the intention to build schools on top of a closed landfill. Our concerns stem from the review and analysis of hundreds of research related to closed and open landfill. Building new school is a noble and a justifiable cause for the Providence School system. However, building schools on top of a closed landfill should be considered a crime, because "it will have negative impact on future generation."

As you may not be aware, because you were not present during the meeting of April 12, 1999, we stated during the meeting that "it is a known fact that liner system constructed in and around any landfill will not last forever and will therefore place a burden on future administration and generation." The construction of the schools will not only cause physical harms to our children, "the future generation", but it will also place on them the unnecessary responsibility of remediating the failed system. We want to remind you that

repair of such liner is almost impossible, when the liner has failed.

We have no idea to which extent schools administrators, School board members, and Mayor Cianci's administrators studied the issues surrounding building schools on top of a closed landfill. Our Organization which includes Engineers and scientists graduated from top Colleges of Engineering and Science in the United States believe that it is not only unwise but it is lacking in common sense to take unnecessary chance with our children, our future. We also believe that allowing the construction of schools on top of a closed landfill is not only unacceptable, but despicable, and may be criminal.

We want to give you some more facts about a closed landfill: The United States Environmental Agency (USEPA) and The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) reported that in general every municipal landfill closed or open will show the following chemical composition and other hazardous materials:

Landfill Gas Composition

Component Name	Component Formula	Typical %Value	Maximum % Value
Methane	CH4	64	88
Carbon dioxide	CO2	34	89
Oxygen	O2	0.16	21
Nitrogen	N2	2.4	87
Hydrogen	H2	0.05	21
Carbon Monoxide	CO	0.001	0.09
Ethane	C2H6	0.005	0.01
Acetaldehyde	C2H4O	0.005	
Sulfur Dioxide	H2S	0.00002	35
Alcohols	CH3OH, CH3CH2OH	0.00001	0.127
Organosulfur Compounds*		0.00001	0.028
Unsaturated Hydrocarbons**		0.009	0.048

- Methane is explosive when between 5-15% in Air
- H2 is explosive between 4-74% of air
- CO2 is toxic above 10% by Volume
- H2S is toxic above 400 ppm

* They are toxic and carcinogens, some of them are: Methanethiol, ethathioethane, Phenylidithiobenzene, 2,4-dinitro-benzenesulfonyl Chloride, ethanesufinic Acid, Methanesulfonic acid, Methanesulfonyl chloride, methanesulsulfinyl ethane, and thousands more.

** They are toxic and carcinogens, some of them are: Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, Indene, Napthalene, Biphenyl, Anthracene, and thousands more.

The bottom line is, we cannot place schools on top of a closed municipal landfill and hope that the landfill stands still. Are we willing to build schools on top of a closed landfill because they provide employment opportunities for teachers, administrators, staffs, or because the property values of our friends or a politician will go up? Are we willing to sacrifice more than one thousand of our children, our future? Are we willing to build schools on top of a closed landfill despite the harms that it may cause to adults responsible for the day-to-day operations of that schools?

Finally, let us tell you the most important things that you need before you move a finger or use your voice to continue with the project.

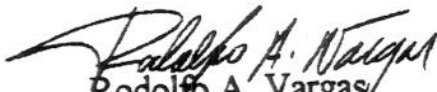
- 1). The findings of the Risk Assessment Study which will evaluate human and environmental risk
2. Findings of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) site Evaluation.
- 3). The fate and transport Study findings.
- 4). The Contents of a Corrective Action Plan which will present remediations options and costs.
- 5). The air quality in and around the closed landfill area.
- 6). The effect on wild biota, particularly plans and animals.
- 7) The levels of methane and volatile organic chemicals being emitted
- 8). Whether the gas collection system effectively and comprehensively capture the methane and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), if one was installed.
- 9). The exact cost and the sources of funds for recycling the removed waste.
- 10). What the neighbors expect from the schools and remediation of the closed landfill.
- 11). The historic picture of the adjacent neighbors.
- 12). Whether the proposed site was cited by Regulatory Agencies.
- 13). The effect of installing lined cells on the landfill.
- 14). When and how will the lives of our children exceed the costs of the proposed

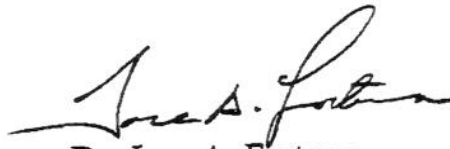
schools.

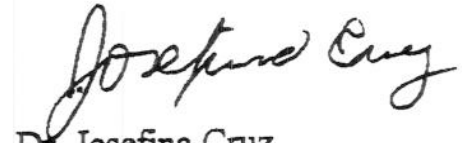
15. The effect of removal of the waste on the landfill and the composition.

We want your response in writing prior to the next meeting of the School Board of the City of Providence. In addition, we want to receive any and all reports prepared for the School Board by the City Administrators, RIDEM, USEPA, and any other Agencies.

Sincerely


Rodolfo A. Vargas,
BSCHE, M.ED.


Dr. Jose A. Fortuna,
PhD. CHE


Dr. Jeseфина Cruz
Dr. of Pharmacy

- cc: School Board Members
- Dr. Robert A. DeRobbio, Interim Superintendent
- The Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Mayor of the City of Providence
- Phyllis E. Tennian, President, Providence Teachers Union
- Peter McWalters, Commissioners of Education
- City Council Members
- Board of Regents Members
- R.I. General Assembly Members, State Representatives and Senators
- Alan Sepe, Acting Director of Public Building
- T. Corrente, Chief Staff, Cianci Administration