

From: [Hilda Torres](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: Public Comment, 1/30/24 Paper 13-24 "CPA Appropriation to FitzGerald Park Project"
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:20:38 AM
Attachments: [FitzGerald Park Petition \(Responses\).pdf](#)

Good morning Carol Ann,

My name is Hilda Torres; I am the Executive Director at My Little Best Friends Early Learning Center. I have been involved with the meetings about Fitzgerald Park and was so excited to hear that it was moving forward until just a few days ago when we heard there had been some pushback due to the tree. I was hoping to read this letter I have written below during the Public Comment section at the meeting tonight. I also have a petition signed by Malden residents in hopes of keeping the plan for FitzGerald Park moving. I have attached it below for your reference.

"FitzGerald Park is very much needed downtown and in the community. We are constantly seeing children at the park. I usually start seeing them around noon if I head out for lunch or a meeting, and many of our families head there after picking the children up and spend almost an hour there daily when the weather is nice. We also take our children there during the day but can only fit a small group in the space. With the long winter we have in New England, having playgrounds for the kids is critical for them to build a gross motor and be with nature. We have seen so many children that are attached to their tablets. Having more playgrounds would help children build social and emotional skills as well as motor skills. The installation has been so lovely to see and pass by regularly. It's hard to find a nice play space for the little ones in the heart of the city. Updating the FitzGerald Park will not only be a space where the children play, but it will also help the children grow because it helps build Social-Emotional, Physical, Imagination, and Cognitive Developments. During spring, summer and fall time it's extremely popular. We have seen children playing into the evening time during the summer. We have even seen high school students there in the afternoon during spring and fall, where they just sit and relax. This playground benefits not only the little children but the big kids as well. The FitzGerald park has become more popular after the Mural project. We have seen more people stopping by to look at the park. Children love the different animals on the mural and love pretending to be one of the animals while playing in the playground. There has been much discussion about the tree, we in fact love the tree, but we are concerned for the children's safety. We would love to be able to keep the tree, but having a bigger play space and better fencing is also very important for all the children in the neighborhood. Because of the different age groups, having other structures to play with is critical. We would love to see a bigger playground for all the children of all ages to enjoy."

Best regards,

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