

## **Statement for Website Regarding Special Hearing**

On Thursday February 15, the Niles Park District Board held a special hearing to share information regarding the soccer field turf at the LoVerde Center. We also received questions and public comment.

We would like to thank all those who attended for their interest and input.

The panel of experts included: Richard Gust, a professional with nearly 40 years' experience in the tire and rubber industry; Michael Peterson, a board-certified toxicologist with 20 years of experience evaluating the potential risks from chemical exposures, and David Sloman, with 20 years of experience as a certified industrial hygienist.

Their findings indicated that the crumb rubber turf used at the LoVerde Center had a strong safety record, no demonstrated health risks and better performance.

David Sloman, who performed an air quality test of the field, determined the common volatile organic compound concentrations were far below regulatory and industry standards. He said that the results did not indicate any risks or health concerns with regard to exposure to volatile organic compounds.

We also heard from residents concerned about health risks, who recommended the current field infill be removed. While no one offered a viable alternative to a field surface that would offer the proven safety and performance of the current turf, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep the safety of all users as a priority.

Sincerely,

Patrick Byrne, President of the Niles Park District Board  
Ray Czarnik, Vice President  
Julie Genualdi, Commissioner  
Dennis O'Donovan, Commissioner  
Chris Zalinski, Commissioner