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**Cc:** [Michelle Nelson](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony - Briggs Chaney Community Gardener Plot 118  
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Good evening County Council,

My name is Jency Suresh and I am a 2nd year gardener at the Briggs Chaney community garden. During COVID, this garden space helped our family in so many ways. It helped me to overcome my loneliness and the stress of being inside the house all the time. It gave me a chance to enjoy fresh air, and exercise, and gave me something to look forward to everyday. This garden has helped us to work together as a family and enjoy lot of wonderful things that a peaceful quiet place has to offer. Last year was our first year and this experience has brought us together as a family and have helped us to learn a lot about gardening and about each other as well.

I was able to share some of my produce with my friends and show my garden plot to my friends and family and inspire them as well. As a result, many have started their gardening this year and last year. At the garden, I was able to meet lot of my fellow community members and it has given me a sense of community and closeness. I have learnt lots of new techniques and information about gardening from my fellow gardeners. The education opportunities provided by the Briggs Chaney community and the Montgomery parks were helpful to a great extent. I was able to successfully grow lot of produce last year.

Thank you,

Jency Suresh