



ITEM NO. 12B

North Bay Village Recommendation Memorandum

DATE: January 11, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Members of the Village Commission

FROM: Madalyn Medrano, Commission Aide

SPONSORED BY: Commissioner Dr. Richard Chervony, Co-Sponsored by Vice Mayor Marvin Wilmoth, and Commissioner Julianna Strout

SUBJECT: Ordinance Regulating the Use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers -
Sponsored by Commissioner Dr. Richard Chervony, Co-Sponsored by Vice Mayor Marvin Wilmoth and Commissioner Julianna Strout

RECOMMENDATION

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION OF NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FLORIDA, CREATING CHAPTER 105 ENTITLED "USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS" OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Administration recommends the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commission to adopt the ordinance on First Reading with any additional recommendations approved from the dais.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Village is working to be a leader on sustainability issues by adopting policies and regulations to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. In conjunction with Commissioner Chervony and Commissioner Streitfeld, the Sustainability and Resilience Taskforce would like the Village to move in a direction where the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is limited and regulated. Our neighboring city of Miami Beach has begun to adopt these regulations and provided research surrounding the differences in noise pollution and operational effectiveness when using electric-powered blowers vs. gas-powered blowers. The statistics below were obtained from their report.

Noise Pollution:

- The Village has received repeated complaints from residents about gas-powered blowers' noise. According to data obtained, electric blowers can be up to 28% quieter compared to a 4-stroke gas blower and up to 13-18% quieter when compared to a 2-stroke gas blower. Although the noise reduction is not significant, it will result in a slight difference in noise.

Operational Effectiveness:

- Technology in electric powered blowers has advanced over the years and can produce similar results from the gas-powered unit. Electric leaf blowers can eliminate the need to repeatedly fill a gas-powered blower with oil and fuel throughout the day. Additionally, you eliminate the maintenance associated with using equipment with a combustion engine. Below is a table comparing the equipment by cost, emissions, run time, and noise.

	Gas	Electric/Battery
Equipment cost*	\$99-\$780	\$20-\$400 (with extra battery)
Co2 Emissions for (1) hour operation**	2,885 lbs.	117 lbs.
Run time**	47-68 min	53-174 min (depending on configuration)
Noise	70-75 dB at (50 feet)	6-65 dB at (50 feet)

*Cost based on models sold at common hardware stores (i.e., Home Depot)

**Based on data collected by QuietCleanPDX.org

CONSIDERATIONS

Village administration was given direction to model our leaf blower regulations after the ordinance being proposed in the City of Miami Beach. Below are a few modifications the Village may want to consider.

Fine Structure:

- Village may consider the fine structure for the ordinance to be consistent with the fine structure adopted for (Section 94.21) prohibition of expanded polystyrene.
 - First violation within a 12-month period = 50.00
 - Second violation within a 12-month period = 100.00
 - Third or subsequent violation within a 12-month period = 500.00

Applicability:

- Village may consider having the ordinance apply to commercial operations and multifamily properties only, and not private use by a single family home owner(s)/occupant(s). We will allow for exemptions/financial hardship waivers to be requested by commercial and multifamily operators.

Hardship Waiver:

- Village may consider the financial hardship waiver to be accepted and approved without the obligation of the applicant to produce documents showing private financial information.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commission to adopt the ordinance on First Reading with any additional recommendations approved from the dais.

Approval of this item will help North Bay Village reduce greenhouse gas emissions; as such, it promotes the NBV100 pillar of Resilience.

Resilience

Adaptive, proactive measures on climate change are necessary for our water-privileged community. NBV100 initiatives prepare for further environmental changes through three stages:

- Created in water,
- Thriving with water, and
- Protected from water

BUDGETARY/FINANCIAL IMPACT (Finance Dept.)

N/A

PERSONNEL IMPACT

N/A