

From: [Dennis McDaniels](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 9/21/2021 Council meeting agenda item 7-f written comment
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:01:13 PM

Alameda City Council and City Managers Office,

I'm providing written comments on agenda item 7-F for the 9/21/2021 city council meeting regarding adoption of an ordinance to ban gasoline powered leaf blowers effective 1/1/2023.

It is clear that council has made the decision to move forward on their plans to ban gasoline powered leaf blowers. Rather than argue against something that has already been decided I ask the council and city managers office to use the next 15 months before the ban comes effective to address concerns of local Alameda based and licensed landscaping businesses.

As a business owner I truly appreciate the time to re-tool my equipment and install charging stations in our work vehicles. As council is aware this equates to several thousand dollars per crew. Purchasing commercial grade battery powered equipment, extra batteries, and retrofitting work vehicles with charging stations isn't cheap.

My questions;

1)

How will this ban be enforced?

Experience from several municipalities who have passed bans on leaf blowers has shown that enforcement is the most difficult aspect of the ban. Look at Menlo Park, who actually backtracked on their original ban because it couldn't be enforced. As a business owner who will follow the ordinance how am I guaranteed to be on equal ground as other landscape service providers? A solid enforcement plan and funding for staff to enforce the ban is necessary. It can't fall on existing staff, police, or the expectation that everyone will do the right thing. Nor can the enforcement lie in the hands of neighbors calling on neighbors. Doesn't look good for anyone. Nothing is worse than an ordinance that can't be fairly enforced. Setting up local licensed businesses to try and enforce the ban isn't right or equitable. Council, do what's right. Be fair and equitable by creating an enforceable ordinance that doesn't put local law abiding businesses at a disadvantage.

2) Will the City of Alameda provide accurate information to Alameda's citizens in the upcoming months prior to the ban going in effect?

The City should stop referencing the report from CARB from 2000. Every manufacturer who sells equipment in California has greatly improved their equipment to meet today's CARB standards. Citing outdated information is misleading. The truth is that new gas powered leaf blowers are not the polluters they once were, and are CARB compliant to be sold in the state. Still, municipalities continue to target them. Be transparent to the citizens and let them know what the facts are today, not the facts from 2 decades ago.

I ask that the city take the time to inform the public on the implications of this ban and how it will effect them. Be clear that battery technology still isn't as effective as current gas powered tools. This equates to additional labor costs. The burden of additional labor costs combined with several thousands of dollars in new equipment that will be purchased to be compliant will be passed on to the residents. Residents can expect a 10-15% increase fees charged by landscape maintenance providers.(The City itself should plan accordingly for its contractors as well) Again, send a clear and transparent message to citizens so everyone knows what to expect !

Regards,
Dennis McDaniels
McDaniels Landscaping

Sent from my iPhone