

From: Karen Luknis <cckl13@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:51 AM

To: Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Billy Wardlow <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Gregory Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

Dear Mayor Johnston and city commissioners,

I am writing to ask that you pass a city wide ban on gas powered leaf blowers just like many other cities around the country have. I am a citizen of Key West since 1990. I live in district 1. The sound of leaf blowers is disruptive to my peace of mind and not only that, it is proven that they cause health issues. I have had many occasions where I am disturbed by the loud noise on the other side of my fence on Love Lane and it goes on for 20 minutes or more constantly. Additionally I see and hear them being used wherever I go downtown. Gas powered leaf blowers are harmful to the environment and public health. They use two-cycle and four-cycle gasoline engines which produce hundreds of times more hazardous pollutants and fine particulates than automobiles. Please for the sake of the community issue a complete ban on the use of these machines.

Sincerely,

Captain Karen Luknis

724 Love Lane

Key West.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ben Harrison <benharrisonkw@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:56 AM

To: District I <districtI@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: leaf blowers

Dear Madam Mayor and City Commissioners:

As a daily “sweeper”, I am writing in favor of banning or, at least, limiting leaf blower use in Key West. Our house and gallery on the corner on White and Olivia Streets are surrounded by seven houses that use leaf blowers. Depending on the direction of the wind one of them is blowing dirt right through our windows and into our house. Leaf blowers don’t clean, they just blow whatever’s in front of it onto someone’s property—dirt, noise and carbon monoxide.

The world, despite what others are going to say, will somehow survive without leaf blowers.

We appreciate your concern over this issue.

Sincerely,
Ben and Helen Harrison
827 White St., Key West, /FL 33040
(305) 294-0609

From: Sarah Carleton <sarah.a.carleton@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:27 AM

To: Mary Lou Hoover <mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Billy Wardlow <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Gregory Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: Leaf blowers

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I am writing to ask that we pass a city wide ban on gas-powered leaf blowers just as many other cities around the country have done. Gas-powered leaf blowers are harmful to the environment and public health. They use gasoline engines that produce many times more hazardous pollutants and fine particulates than automobiles. When you add up all of the leaf blowers and how long they are running throughout the day in Key West, that is a lot of pollutants. For us to claim Key West as an environmentally conscious city, it would behoove us to ban gas-powered blowers.

Gas-powered leaf blowers create high levels of formaldehyde, benzene, fine particulate matter and smog-forming chemicals which are known to cause dizziness, headaches, asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, cancer and dementia. Blowers can create clouds of industrial pollutants, pollens, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, dried animal feces, dust and demolition debris such as lead and asbestos – polluting the air we breathe. Operators of the equipment are most at risk, but the exhaust and dust is a danger to the general population – especially children, the elderly, people with chronic asthma and people exercising. Gas-powered blowers are often used in parks and public spaces where many people are exposed to the dangers. All city residents should be able to enjoy their homes and our outdoor shared space without being exposed to toxic fumes, aerosolized pesticides and animal feces, and flying particulate matter. Especially in this time of COVID, it is important that we treat everyone's lungs with the utmost care.

In terms of sound pollution, gas powered leaf blowers create high intensity, low frequency noise that impacts nearby homes, schools and parks, and disturbs wildlife. Operating a gas leaf blower can cause permanent hearing loss. The low frequency noise of gas blowers travels further than the noise from electric blowers and penetrates through windows more readily. Especially in this time of COVID when many people are working from home, it is important to reduce sound pollution.

There are readily available alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers, such as electric leaf blowers and especially simple brooms and rakes. These alternatives are safer and just as effective as gas-powered blowers.

Please consider banning gas-powered leaf blowers entirely within city limits. Thank-you for your consideration.

Sarah Carleton

sarah.a.carleton@gmail.com

From: divkw@aol.com <divkw@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Ban the blower

Mornin Jimmy:
Please support Dakin.
Blowing leaves and dirt from one side of the street to the other in Old Town is ridiculous. It pits neighbor against neighbor and for those with money neighbor vs landscaper.
Why can't we use some common sense here?
Peter and Maggie Wassylenko
1305 Newton St
305 975-7787

From: Teresa Burton <teresaburton@mindspring.com>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Mary Lou Hoover <mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

I am writing to ask that we pass a city wide ban on gas powered leaf blowers just like many other cities around the country have. A compelling case is laid out by QuietCleanPDX.org: Gas powered leaf blowers are harmful to the environment and public health. They use two-cycle and four-cycle gasoline engines which produce hundreds of times more hazardous pollutants and fine particulates than automobiles. The State of California estimates that small engines such as those in leaf blowers will overtake automobiles to become the number one source of air pollution by 2020. According to a test conducted by Edmunds, one leaf blower running for half an hour creates as much CO2 as a Ford Raptor truck driving from Texas to Alaska. When you add up all of the leaf blowers and how long they are running throughout the day in Key West that is a lot of CO2 and it is hard for us to legitimately claim ourselves to be an environmentally conscious city with this kind of nonchalant pollution allowed.

Gas powered leaf blowers create high intensity, low frequency noise that impacts nearby homes, schools and parks, and disturbs wildlife. Operating a gas leaf blower can cause permanent hearing loss in 2 hours and can impact 90 nearby homes. The low frequency noise of gas blowers travels further than the noise from electric blowers and penetrates through windows more readily.

Gas leaf blowers create high levels of formaldehyde, benzene, fine particulate matter and smog forming chemicals which are known to cause dizziness, headaches, asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, cancer and dementia.

Blowers can create clouds of industrial pollutants, pollens, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, dried animal feces, dust and demolition debris such as lead and asbestos – polluting the air we breathe.

Re-fueling spills contaminate soil and waterways. Maintenance of gas powered leaf blowers produces toxic waste like fuel filters and contaminated air filters. Blowers erode, compact and dry out soil and harm plants, microorganisms and pollinators.

Operators of the equipment are most at risk, but the exhaust and dust is a danger to the general population – especially children, the elderly, people with chronic asthma and people exercising. Gas blowers are often used in parks and public spaces where many people are exposed to the dangers. All city residents should be able to enjoy their homes and our outdoor shared space without being exposed to toxic fumes, aerosolized pesticides and animal feces, and flying particulate matter.