

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 22, 2019

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair), Mark Clayton (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Jennifer S. Gates, Scott Griggs, B. Adam McGough, Omar Narvaez

SUBJECT **Consideration of a Moratorium on Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers**

On Monday, March 25, 2019, you will be briefed on the Consideration of a Moratorium on Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers.

The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)
Carol Smith, City Auditor (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors

Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blower Moratorium

Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee
March 27, 2019

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager
City of Dallas



Presentation Overview

- Purpose
- Background
- Examples of Similar Regulations
- Complaint Calls
- Next Steps



Purpose

- Review current noise regulations for lawn maintenance activities, examples of similar regulations, and complaint calls
- Consideration of a moratorium on gasoline-powered leaf blowers and request that staff develop an ordinance for City Council action and implementation plan



Background

- Current noise regulations limit lawn maintenance activities to be conducted between the hours of:
 - 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Monday-Friday
 - 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, and legal holidays
- Additionally, require that equipment is maintained in proper working condition



Background

- Councilman Philip Kingston requested that staff brief the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee on a potential moratorium on gasoline-powered leaf blowers



Examples of Similar Regulations

Example City	Complete Gas Blower Ban	Seasonal Gas Blower Ban ¹	Noise and/or Time of Day Restrictions ²	Complete Gas and Electric Blower Ban
Houston, TX			X	
Seattle, WA			X	
Santa Barbara, CA	X			
Santa Monica, CA				X
Washington, DC ³	X			
Yonkers, NY		X		

Source: https://hdsupplysolutions.com/s/leaf_blower_noise_regulation

¹ In most cases gas blowers are only allowed in the Fall

² Users may be restricted to use low noise gas units that are <70 dB or <65 dB. Others may be restricted to certain hours of the day—in some cases, restricted to use their blower one day per week.

³ Effective January 2022; Source: <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/DC-Council-Considers-Banning-Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blowers-501928591.html>

Complaint Calls

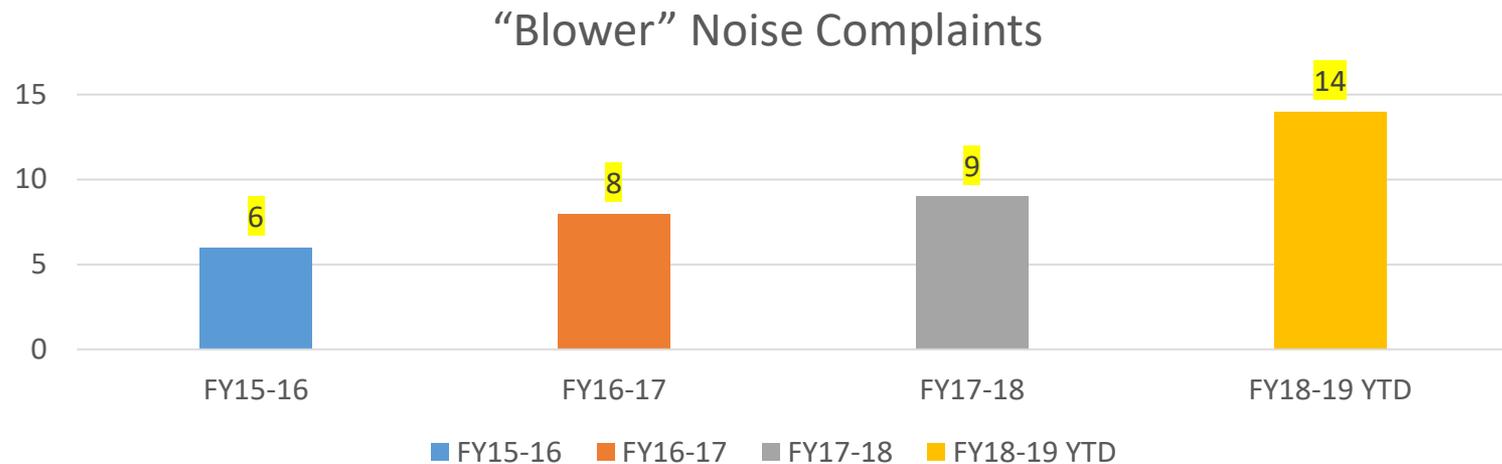
- Residents reported an average of 1,345 noise complaints to the City annually from FY16 through FY18

3-Yr Average Noise Complaint Sources



Complaint Calls

- 311 does not have a specific complaint category for leaf blower noise, but a text search for “blower” in all noise complaints produced the following annual counts



Next Steps

- Committee discussion to consider a moratorium on gasoline-powered leaf blowers and request that staff develop an ordinance for City Council action and implementation plan

Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blower Moratorium

Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee
March 27, 2019

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager
City of Dallas

