

March 21, 2017

**Mayor Craig Cates
And
Key West Commissioners**

RE: Leaf Blower Legislation

If I may, I would like to reintroduce myself. I am a former Vice President of Engineering for ECHO Inc., a leading manufacturer of leaf blowers. As an expert in the field, I disseminate 'up to date' information about modern leaf blowers throughout the United States and Canada.

About one year ago, I sent you a letter that addressed the issues surrounding the leaf blower controversy in Key West so as to provide you with accurate facts you need to make an informed decision regarding its use in your community. Per an article dated March 18, 2017, by Gwen Filosa, on the website (keynoter.com), it appears you clearly understand these issues. Your approach to the problem of leaf blower noise is commendable, however, the suggestion that gasoline powered leaf blowers be "phased out" in residential areas is problematic.

My assumption is that you will allow electric leaf blowers, but their use is quite limited. For the home owner, they may work well enough, but for the professional, they are seriously underpowered. The contractor must be able to get his job done quickly in order to make a profit and electric blowers, either corded or cordless, cannot provide that type of efficiency.

There are only two reasons people cite as they try to justify the elimination of gasoline powered leaf blowers, noise and pollution. I think you already know that quiet leaf blowers, blowers at 65 dB(A), are as quiet as electric units. In most cases, they are even quieter. So that argument has no validity.

As for pollution, there is only exhaust pollution and dust. Exhaust pollution has not been a problem since January 1, 2005 for that is when all small hand held engines had to meet a very stringent emission requirement per a federal mandate. Yes, there are older units still in service, but if you require quiet leaf blowers, you will automatically solve the exhaust problem, assuming they are new units replacing older ones.

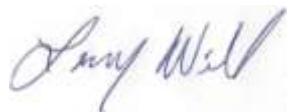
Dust is not really a blower issue as much as it is an operator issue and your proposed training program will take care of that. Besides, this problem would exist regardless the type of blower being used if the operator is inconsiderate.

Perhaps it is a good time to give you some insight on the people drawn in to this issue. I have attached an article that addresses this important matter based on my own personal experience over the past 22 years. What you will learn from this is that the

only way to solve the noise issue is to outlaw all gasoline powered leaf blowers, except for the quiet ones.

As always, if you should need information that is not clearly addressed on my website or the documents I have provided, please contact me and I will do whatever I can to help, including further research on your behalf.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Will".

Larry Will
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To learn more about ECHO: <http://www.echo-usa.com/About-ECHO/About-Us>