

May 4, 2017

**Supervisor Paul Feiner
and
Greenburgh Town Council Members**

RE: Leaf Blower Legislation

I just read an article on your local [patch.com website](#) that indicates you are addressing a leaf blower issue in Greenburgh. I am a retired 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. I have consulted with more than [155 cities](#) over the past 15 years, helping to resolve the leaf blower noise problem in their communities. I address all the issues surrounding the leaf blower and provide them with knowledge they will not acquire from those that have a strong dislike for leaf blowers. You see, most of these people have never used a leaf blower and have no concept of how useful and important they are to lawn care providers and residents that depend on them. Opposing stakeholders in this issue are highly polarized and are generally intolerant of the other's concerns. It is not always obvious which way to go as they seek to develop workable leaf blower controls.

Some anti-leaf blower advocates will accept the use of electric or battery powered leaf blowers, but you should know that their use is quite limited. For the home owner with small yards, they may work well enough, but for the professional, these blowers 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.

The important word here is "quickly". When a resident has a problem with a noisy leaf blower running steadily near his home for half a day or more, it is overwhelmingly the result of a private citizen trying to maintain a perfect yard with an underpowered, low cost leaf blower. Consequently, he must run it for a long time to achieve the perfection he is looking for, which will irritate almost anyone. The professional, on the other hand, has no time for that. His goal is to get done quickly and move on to the next job. For him, time is money. He uses a large blower with performance suited for fast and thorough cleaning. Over the spring and summer months, he can be done in less than 15 minutes on any given residence, only cleaning sidewalks and driveways after cutting the grass or trimming hedges.

The two arguments driving leaf blower complaints are noise and pollution, which are discussed in detail at my [website](#). Noise can be reduced to a point where there will no

longer be any complaints if you allow only quiet leaf blowers at 65 dB(A) measured at 50 feet per the industry Standard. Your enforcement agency need not measure this value in the field for noise levels are labeled on the unit by the manufacturer. If your ordinance requires this label and there is no label, it simply does not comply. Chances are you are dubious about my claim, thinking that although they might in fact be quieter, they are still too noisy. Sir, you need only ask one of your constituents familiar with leaf blowers to give you a sound comparison demonstration. It is important that you compare a blower at 77 dB(A) with one at 65. I know you will be impressed. This represents a 75% reduction in sound. If you need help with that, I can arrange for a sound demonstration convenient to you.

Now please don't think that I am just trying to sell ECHO leaf blowers because we have been selling quiet leaf blowers for 20 years and I can guarantee that there are already many quiet leaf blowers in your community. Your ordinance will only be requiring that they use them exclusively. Half of the leaf blowers we offer are at 65 dB(A). As for the rest of our product line, more than half of these are at 70 dB(A), which is a 50% reduction in sound. Today, we are not the only manufacturer selling quiet leaf blowers. We were just the first to offer this valuable option. The problem is, if only one noisy leaf blower is being used in a neighborhood, all leaf blowers are reviled and that is what I am trying to address. Many cities have already taken the step of outlawing noisy blowers and this action has ultimately been supported by landscapers. Why? It's because he loses money if he must use a battery powered blower and/or a broom or rake.

You know, quiet leaf blowers, blowers at 65 dB(A), are as quiet as electric units. In most cases, they are even quieter because electric blowers scream and quiet gasoline powered blowers do not. So the argument that electric blowers are always quieter has no validity. This can be demonstrated at a comparison test as well, along with the noisy gasoline blower mentioned above.

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 and dirtier units still in service, but if you require quiet leaf blowers, you will automatically solve the exhaust problem.

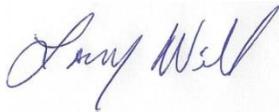
Dust is not really a blower issue as much as it is an operator issue. A training program is the best way to deal with that. [Pamphlets](#) are available for you to copy as part of your [training or information program](#). This issue would exist regardless of the type of blower being used, electric or gas, if the operator remains inconsiderate.

I would like 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 several years. You will learn from this that you must find a way to satisfy both sides of the issue.

Before enacting a leaf blower ordinance, be sure to talk to cities that already have bans in place. More specifically, talk directly with their enforcement agency. Leaf blower ban supporters will not tell you this, but I think you will find that they are unable to enforce a ban if the landscapers do not buy into it. What you want is for landscape service providers to support your ordinance voluntarily and to accomplish that, you should have your people meet with them outside of a council meeting. It is an important subject to them and it will take more time than that allowed at a typical council meeting for these stakeholders to properly expose all their concerns.

If you should need information that is not clearly addressed on my website or the document 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". The signature is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Larry" and last name "Will" clearly distinguishable.

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