

Martinez, Ruben

From: Joy W
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jessica
Subject: Item 10 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a grassroots group in Altadena, a neighboring community, we care deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life both in Pasadena and Altadena. We urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy. **The adoption of this policy will affect Altadena residents since we share many of the same landscape services.**

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a

local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8th. AB 1346 will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Now is the time to

1. Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Sincerely,
CHA CHA Committee
Clean Healthy Air - Clean Healthy Altadena

Altadena  ZENN

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Joy Walters
CHA CHA Facilitator/Host
525 Wapello St., Altadena, CA
818 720-0950

Martinez, Ruben

From: Jill Shook <Jill@makinghousinghappen.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:50 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John J.
Subject: re: correspondence from Jill Shook for #s 13, 14 and 15

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#13

I'm so grateful that the city has put the ban on the sale of leaf blowers on the agenda. But I have to admit, I wish it was about banning leaf blowers, not just stopping their sale. Not only are they noise polluters, which can cause severe hearing loss and making it difficult for so many of us who now work out of our homes, but some studies say that the kind of two stroke engines the use emit nearly 300 times the amount of air pollutants as a pickup truck. That is astounding.

Our gardener is not happy about the idea of using electric blowers, but I care about his health as well as ours. We must value life over profit. And we must do all we can do address climate change.

When I was on the City Hall side walk last week, a leaf blower pushed dust and leaves into my path. When he realized it, he felt badly and apologized. It was surprising to see that the city hired someone with the kind of gas engine we hope to ban to sale of today. But then I thought about our gardeners gas blower and how we too are not yet banning it in our yard. If gas blowers were completely banned as they are in Beverly Hills, then it would be much easier for us require alternatives. We'd be glad to offer some extra money for the time it takes for our gardener to rake and we make sure he uses our more quite electric blower but he is reluctant as it slows him down. We need to stop and think about our values, Is efficient and profit more important than saving our planet and being a good neighbor?

Wed like all our neighbors to do likewise. Please direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Title 9 (Public Peace, Morals and Welfare) of the Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines within Pasadena.

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I appreciate the staff's thorough report on the housing crisis. They describe Pasadena's efforts to address it as well as the state's new policies to help us make more affordable housing happen. According to the Turner's Centers, a projected 2,000 folks in Pasadena could take advantage of SB 9. This would help us not only to address our growing housing Crisis but also reach our RHNA goals and create safety.

I would welcome subdivided lots and duplexes in my neighborhood. Despite there being a number of ADUs on our block, we have no parking issues and in fact it feels very quiet with little to no foot traffic. With more folks walking in neighborhood, there are more eyes on the street and more safety. Neighbors like our friend Joyce walk our neighborhood every day and know what is happening. I feel so grateful for her and am excited about SB 9.

I invite you to join us on Oct. 26th at 7pm to learn more about this policy and several other new state policies. See:

<https://makinghousinghappen.net/2021/10/12/mhch-housing-justice-forum-october-2021/>

#15:

I love our democracy. It's amazing that this experiment has worked for as long as it has, but one of the reasons that it is that we all vote, all people, even those little means. One thing that is destroying our precious democracy is money in politics. Money cannot and should not be the measure for how we make decisions. I have to admit, it was shocking to me that putting no limit on contributions is even being considered. Please refuse this lie that is destroying our nation. As a person of faith, I seek to live my life by the Christian Scriptures. I love Matt 6:33—seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, in the Spanish Bible it says to uses the word “Justicia” —justice. Seek what matters to God, to do justice, to love and seek mercy, equity, inclusion of all people no matter their income. And the promise that follows this verse is this—that all these things will be added unto you. If you have the courage do what is right, that is what will get you elected. Please do not allow no limit on campaign donations. Thank you!!

Jill Shook

Jill Shook, Missions Door, Catalyst _____

Doctor of Ministry, Bakke Graduate School

Blog: makinghousinghappen.net Websites: www.makinghousinghappen.org and makinghousinghappen.com

Author/Editor: *Making Housing Happen: Faith Based Affordable Housing Models*

Phone: _____

