CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 435

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL'S INTENT TO PHASE OUT GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS; ESTABLISHING GOALS AND IDENTIFYIN ACTIONS TO MEET THESE GOALS

WHEREAS, the City of Medina ("City") has the authority to adopt policies to protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, data has revealed the environmental and public health impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers most commonly have two-stroke internal combustion engines that incompletely combust their fuel, resulting in the emission of toxic and carcinogenic substances, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds, which contribute to the formation of ozone, smog, and acid rain; and

WHEREAS, best available data indicate that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers can cause direct harm to people within the vicinity by contributing to localized air pollution, creating excessive noise, and causing other negative health impacts to their operators; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers with two-stroke engines emit particularly low-frequency sound waves, including ultra-low frequency, which cause the sounds to travel longer distances and more easily penetrate walls and other barriers, magnifying the impacts of nuisance noise; and

WHEREAS, initial research shows that current electric leaf blower models produce similar noise levels to gas powered leaf blowers, but that electric motors have more potential to reduce noise pollution and electric leaf blower technology is anticipated to improve in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, electric leaf blowers are quieter than gas-powered versions and do not emit low frequency sound waves or toxic emissions, reducing harm to operators and other people nearby; and

WHEREAS, in response to the considerable negative impacts from gas-powered leaf blowers, over 100 cities across the nation have instituted policies limiting or banning them from use; and

WHEREAS, the City public works department currently uses gas-powered leaf blowers.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council recognizes that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers causes adverse environmental and health impacts, including noise and establishes the following goals to support the transition away from their use:

A. By January 2028, or later if necessary, the City, and its contractors will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

B. By January 2028, or later if necessary, institutions located in Medina, businesses operating in Medina, and Medina residents will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Section 2. To accomplish the goals in Section 1 of this resolution, the Council requests that City departments (as suggested below) pursue the following actions:

A. Medina Public Works is recommended to:

1. Evaluate their current practices related to the use of leaf blowers and explore options to reduce reliance on leaf blowers, both gas-powered and electric, either by allowing leaves to naturally decompose or clearing them using non-motorized methods; and
2. To replace gas-powered leaf blowers with electric or battery operated when feasible; and
3. Develop and implement plans to ensure that City facilities and employees are adequately equipped with infrastructure and equipment to use electric-powered leaf blowers rather than gas-powered leaf blowers.

Section 3. To further accomplish the goals in Section 1 of this resolution, Council directs staff to work with residents, institutions located in Medina and businesses operating in Medina to pursue to following actions:

A. All residents, institutions located in Medina, and businesses operating in Medina are encouraged to:

1. Evaluated their current practices related to the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and explore options to reduce reliance on leaf blowers, both gas-powered and electric, either by allowing leaves to naturally decompose or clearing them using non-motorized methods; and
2. To replace gas-powered leaf blowers with electric or battery operated when feasible.

Section 4. Nothing in this resolution should be construed to preclude or impede the City's ability to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers more quickly.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption by the City Council.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 AND SIGNED IN AUTHENTICATION OF ITS PASSAGE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023.

Jessica Rossman, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC

Scott M. Missall, City Attorney

Attest:

Aimee Kellerman, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 9/12/2023
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 9/11/2023
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