



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
June 13, 2023

ITEM TITLE:

ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES CODE, CHAPTER 34-NUISANCES, ARTICLE VI-NOISE, SECTION 34-166-DEFINITIONS, AND SECTION 34-169- ENUMERATED PROHIBITED ACTS IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF GASOLINE POWERED LEAF BLOWERS WITHIN THE CITY, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 1-GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 1-7- PENALTIES IN ORDER TO ADD ASSOCIATED PENALTIES, PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER PROVISION, SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

(Sponsored by Commissioner Castro)

(Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City Commission has received various complaints about excessive noise and pollution caused by gasoline powered leaf blowers, and an increased number of complaints given recent increases in residents working from home during the day. The City has long been concerned with the environmental harm associated with the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and at various points has piloted the use of electric leaf blowers by City staff and contractors.

This ordinance prohibits the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers within the City, and requires that any battery and electric-powered leaf blowers used in the City not exceed a decibel level of 65 dBA as show on the manufacturers label. This ordinance provides for a financial hardship waiver for those property owners or businesses that reported household annual gross income of 80% of the area median income, and provides that the City Manager may suspend this prohibition in the event of a hurricane or other weather event in order to allow for debris clean up.

Enforcement of this prohibition would not begin until June 1, 2024, following an extensive educational campaign.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Draft Ordinance.**