

Good afternoon Mayor Lago, and Commissioners,

My name is Kelley Schild, and I live at 905 University Drive in a 1926 Historically Designated home.

Thank you very much for having this discussion regarding leaf blowers in the City.

As a pharmacy owner and previous nursing home owner, I am fully aware that the issue of "Leaf Blowers" may seem trivial compared to other pressing issues. But I can assure you that "Quality of Life" at home is very much a vital issue in our *uncontrollable* world. When our homes become our workplaces, schools and only refuge, quality of life at home becomes a priority.

Gas powered leaf blowers have unbearable noise emit more pollutants into the environment. The experts have adequate data on the harmful effects to people and the environment.

The issue has generated posts on social media and sites such as Next Door.

Here are the opinions of the residents of Coral Gables in their own words:

"Apart from the noise it's the dirt that flies around. I always have to wash walls, windows, lawn furniture"

"Let me add that this adds an extra element of stress to those working from home"

"1000% agree, it is never ending"

"Just had that nerve grating loud noise wake me up this morning and it pretty much ruins your day"

"I am a newish resident of CG and I love every aspect of life here. However, I have been confused as to why or how CG resident put up with the blower noise. Clearly zero regulation in terms of time and weekends"

In 2010, Commissioner Ralph Cabrera introduced an ordinance to regulate leaf blowers and was personally attacked. It has been over ten years since the Commission has addressed this issue and our City's residents are tired of waiting for relief. Since that time, Many other cities across the nation have adopted noise regulations regarding Gas leaf blowers – I have a long list (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina Palm Beach, Carmel, Beverly Hills, Malibu, Newport Beach, Aspen, Carbondale, Greenwich)

This is not an issue about the rights of lawn care companies, since there is a perfectly acceptable solutions. There will be no lawn care companies going out of business. The solution is not a ban but regulations that respect residents such as: Use only of leaf blowers that measure 65dB(A) or less, times of use (no earlier than 9am or later than 5pm) and days of use (not on Sundays).

I respectfully request that you consider solutions for this important issue and thank you for your time.