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SEE ATTACHMENT

I respectfully request this council give serious consideration to not amending the current ordinance banning the use of all motorized leaf blowers. Rather, I ask the council to strongly encourage the use of battery powered leaf vacuums in lieu of battery powered leaf blowers to meet the needs of residents, contractors, gardeners and city workers thus providing a reasonable and equitable solution to maintaining yards, parks, and all kinds of landscape and hardscape areas.

City workers would substantially benefit from using battery powered leaf vacuums because the manner in how they performed their work duties would be done more safely, quickly and efficiently, eliminating the need to hire more workers, thus saving the city money as well. Battery powered leaf vacuums are closely comparable in costs to that of purchasing and maintaining battery powered leaf blowers, and, they do not worsen air quality.

Residents and gardeners presently have the efficient and effective option of using battery powered leaf vacuums as well as rakes and brooms. Residents who are adversely impacted by toxic air pollution aggravated by the use of battery powered leaf blowers will have no choice but to stay inside, close their windows and doors, or leave their residence due to this offense being forced upon them. On my street alone, there are approximately 15 gardening crews that come within the six-day work week. Having to endure a resurgence of the use of all these leaf blowers would be overwhelmingly disruptive and upsetting to say the least.

Some irresponsible use of leaf blowers includes the propelling of debris out into the street and or being left in the gutter where it can then be blown by the wind further down the street, ending up in the sewer system. Debris and particulate matter are blown into other people's yards, driveways and through open door and window screens which is highly unfair and environmentally unsound. The use of a battery powered leaf vacuum would eliminate all of this.

Using battery powered leaf vacuums additionally eliminates the need to blow leaves into piles and then having to physically rake or sweep up collected debris. These machines are also a real convenience for the physically challenged as well.

If gardeners and residents were to use battery powered leaf vacuums in lieu of leaf blowers, there would be also be a substantial and expected reduction of calls to law enforcement, with an easing in neighbor against neighbor frustration and resentment.

Children walking to school or playing outside, pets, bicyclists, runners, pedestrians, people enjoying their back or front yard patios, the homebound, people who work from home, residents with respiratory illnesses or compromised immune systems and residents that leave their windows open for fresh air, would not be subjected to propelled pernicious toxins and hazardous particulate matter if gardeners and residents were to use battery powered leaf vacuums in lieu of leaf blowers.

Since battery powered leaf vacuums are already legal to use in the city of Redondo Beach, with dozens of models readily available at the local Home Depot, there is absolutely no need to amend the leaf blower ban as it currently stands. In my opinion, there are no justifiable reasons as to why battery powered leaf vacuums cannot be the healthy, middle ground alternative instead of using battery powered leaf blowers. Thank you.

Elaine Sieker, District 5

Re: Leaf Blower Ban

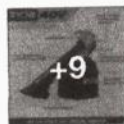
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