



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin, Chair / **Joseph Marziliano**, District Manager

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Henry Euler, Environmental Committee Chair
DATE: September 12, 2022
RE: After-Holiday Garbage Collection and Leaf Blower Noise Pollution

On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, a meeting of the CB11 Environmental Committee was held via Zoom teleconference to discuss the above two problematic issues.

Present

Henry Euler, Committee Chair
Christine Haider – 2nd Vice Chair
Jessica Burke – Committee Member
Christina Scherer – Committee Member
Lourdes December – Committee Member
Joan Garippa - Board Member

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager
Jane Bentivenga – Community Coordinator
Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

The meeting opened with Mr. Euler stating that the first item for discussion will be Monday garbage pickup. This topic was brought to his attention by Board Member, Steve Pivawer. Mr. Euler said that when there is a holiday, garbage is not picked up until the next day or the next collection day. Recycling is picked up on the next collection day, which means another week passes before the recycling is collected. Monday recycling collection is particularly affected since so many holidays are observed on a Monday. This past holiday, Labor Day, a Monday holiday, the DSNY started a pilot program to pick-up garbage for scheduled Monday routes. Ms. Scherer said that the community was not informed properly, and most people did not put their garbage curbside. Mr. Marziliano said this is a new City-wide program. It was thought that it would be best for the committee to see how this new program functions and see if there is a possibility that recycling collections could also be collected on holidays at least on a trial basis. A discussion ensued regarding how DSNY leaves debris behind, and the residents receive violations. Ms. Burke requested a proposal for cameras on the DSNY trucks. No action was taken on that topic since a quorum was not present. Ms. Scherer stated that public waste baskets are overflowing with garbage.

The next item for discussion was regarding leaf blower noise and pollution issues. Mr. Euler said that former Board Member Melvyn Meer brought this issue to his attention. Mr. Marziliano screen-shared a resolution that the Board passed in 2015 regarding the use of gas- and diesel-powered lawn equipment. At that time, Council Member Danny Dromm was trying to pass

legislation addressing some of the noise and pollution issues. His legislation was never passed. Ms. Scherer noted that other cities and jurisdictions have laws concerning noise from lawn care devices. Discussion ensued regarding how at certain times of the day, and in some cases, months of the year, the gas- and diesel-powered equipment could be used in those places that have passed this type of legislation. Mr. Marziliano stated that many leaf blowers do not have a high enough decibel level to receive a violation from DEP. It was suggested that battery-operated equipment were not as noisy and disturbing. Mrs. Haider and Ms. Burke spoke regarding debris from the leaf blowers going into the catch basins. Mrs. Haider said catch basins should be cleaned regularly to avoid clogging.

Mr. Marziliano said there is not a quorum at the meeting, therefore, an official action will not take place at this meeting.

Mr. Euler volunteered to update the resolution from 2015 and to bring the draft back to Committee for review.

The meeting adjourned.

Resolution Regarding the Use of Gas and Diesel Powered Lawn Care Devices, DRAFT, September, 2022

Whereas, Concern has been raised in the community regarding the

noise and pollution generated by gas and diesel powered lawn care devices, especially leaf blowers,

Whereas, Concern has been raised over the time of day when the lawn care devices are used especially on weekends and holidays,

Whereas, Concern has been raised over the effect that gas and diesel powered lawn care devices has on public health and the environment,

Whereas, It is recognized that gas and diesel powered leaf blowers create dust when in use that may contain fecal and pesticide residue that is dangerous to human health,

Whereas, It is recommended that people should not be regularly exposed to noise levels above a certain decibel limit and that some lawn care devices can exceed that level,

Whereas, It is generally accepted that electric powered and battery operated lawn care devices are less noisy and polluting than gas and diesel powered lawn devices, which generate increased carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions,

Whereas, In the past, legislation had been introduced in the City Council, which would address some of the problems involved with the noise and pollution generated by gas and diesel powered lawn care devices. That legislation was not passed,

Whereas, Other cities and towns in our state and country have passed laws addressing these problems and have been helpful,

Whereas, It is recognized that enforcement of any new law regulating noise levels in lawn care devices would require extra staff from the enforcement agencies working extended hours.

Be it resolved that Queens Community Board 11:

- . 1) Supports the passage of City Council legislation that will reduce the noise levels of lawn care devices, especially leaf blowers, and limit the time of day and time of year when these devices could be used in order to reduce noise and pollution issues.
- . 2) Supports contacting local landscapers to ask them to voluntarily use lawn care devices that have lower noise levels.

- . 3) Will contact Council Members Paladino, Lee, and Ung to ask them to consider drafting legislation that will address these issues, and provide funding for enforcement of provisions in that legislation.
- . 4) Will send copies of this resolution to all Queens Community Boards, Queens Council Members, Queens Assembly Members, Queens State Senators, City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, Borough President Donovan Richards, Comptroller Brad Lander, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and Mayor Eric Adams. [L]
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