Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
October 15, 2012

Discussion Concerning The Timing Of The Usage Of The City Of Miami Beach's Leaf Blowers.
Commission Item C4C, May 9, 2012
(Requested by Commissioner Michael Góngora)

Kevin Smith, Parks and Recreation Department Director

ITEM 6

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City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Members

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: September 24, 2012

SUBJECT Discussion Concerning the Timing of the Usage of City of Miami Beach Leaf Blowers

INTRODUCTION

Commissioner Michael Góngora and the City Commission referred a discussion concerning the timing of the usage of the City of Miami Beach's leaf blowers to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee at the May 9, 2012 Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND

The use of leaf blowers and other power noise producing landscape equipment is restricted between the hours of 8:00 pm and 7:00 am as stated in the City of Miami Beach municipal code section;

Article IV-Noise Sec. 46-152. - Noises; unnecessary and excessive prohibited;

(k) ***Power tools and landscaping equipment.*** The operation of noise-producing lawn mowers, lawn edgers, weed trimmers, blowers, chippers, chain saws, power tools and other noise-producing tools which are used to maintain or at a residence out-of-doors between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Leaf blowers are utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department employees and contracted landscape maintenance service providers on a daily basis citywide. Leaf blowers are integral in the landscape maintenance operations conducted by the Department to clear and collect leaf/ turf clippings, sand and other small litter debris during the cleaning of pedestrian walking surfaces such as sidewalks, playground safety surfaces, pavers, curbs, roadways, defined bed edges and planting sites.

The Parks and Recreation Department conducts these activities within parks, golf courses, commercial business locations, municipal building grounds, roads and public right-a-way. Since many of the locations that are serviced by the Parks and Recreation Department staff or contracted service providers are adjacent to residential neighborhoods, it is operational policy to limit excessive noise creating actions until 8:00 am. Because Parks and Recreation (Greenspace Management) maintenance crews begin their shift at 7:30 a.m. and their landscape contractors at 8:00 a.m., their use of leaf blowers normally occurs after these start times and ends prior to 5:00 pm.

Additionally, the Public Works Department, Sanitation Division staff employs this equipment to assist in the removal leaf debris and litter from Commercial Business and residential street curbs, sidewalks and alleys between the hours 7:00 am-1:00 pm.

Conclusion

The Administration requests the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee discuss the issue concerning the timing of the usage of City of Miami Beach leaf blowers and provide direction as to how to proceed.

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