



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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From: [Dean Samos](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment agenda item #6, May 9, 2023
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:54:57 AM

I am writing in support of increased enforcement of the Los Altos gas leaf blower ban. In a city where a large number of people drive electric cars, it is ridiculous that we burn fossil fuels to blow leaves off of our gardens and driveways. These devices are unhealthy for the operators, and cause noise and air pollution for a large area around the operator. Their use is also in direct conflict with Los Altos' climate mitigation plans.

I fully support a ban in which homeowners and landscape companies are held responsible and fined for their use, and not the operators.

In talking to many neighbors and gardeners about gas leaf blowers, I have found a couple of things to be generally true:

1. The gardeners know they are illegal, but know they can get away with using them.
2. The homeowners don't really care what the gardeners do - 'out of sight, out of mind'. They don't really want to talk to their gardeners at all.

I have also found that if homeowners simply require their gardeners to switch to electric, they do. All of our immediate neighbors who we spoke to about this got their gardeners to switch to electric, but it's a constant battle to get others to respond. With escalating fines for continued use, I'm sure homeowners will be quick to ask their gardeners to go electric.

Code enforcement could regularly patrol the city looking for leaf blowers, instead of waiting for calls from neighbors.

Thank you
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