

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-XX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS ADDING CHAPTER 11.15 TO TITLE 11 MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY REGULATIONS OF THE LOS ALTOS MUNICIPAL CODE CREATING A STANDALONE CHAPTER FOR LEAF BLOWER REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in 1991 by amendments contained within the City’s Noise Ordinance, Chapter 6.16 of the Los Altos Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos has a strong interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), promoting citywide sustainability efforts, and enhancing the quality of life in Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2023, the City Council received a presentation which covered the background of the gas-powered leaf blower prohibition within the city and a comprehensive analysis of the existing regulations and difficulties with enforcement capabilities; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2023, the City Council gave the Development Services Director guidance on drafting an updated Leaf Blower Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos reaffirms its prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease noise levels, and to further reduce the adverse impacts of the use of the leaf blowers on adjacent properties, streets, gutters, sidewalks, and storm drains; and

WHEREAS, the amendments are in the best interest for the protection or promotion of the comfort and convenience of the residents of the City of Los Altos because they clarify and improve the prohibition and enforcement of gas-power leaf blowers within the City; and

WHEREAS, the amendments was processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the Los Altos Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on June 27, 2023, and July 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State Guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 6.16 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE. Chapter 6.16 are hereby amended of the Los Altos Municipal Code as set forth in Appendix A to this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF TITLE 11 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE. Chapter 11.15 are hereby added of the Los Altos Municipal Code as set forth in Appendix B to this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. CONSTITUTIONALITY; AMBIGUITIES. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. Any ambiguities in the Los Altos Municipal Code created by this Ordinance shall be resolved by the Development Services Director, in their reasonable discretion, after consulting the City Attorney.

SECTION 4. PUBLICATION. This Ordinance shall be published as provided in Government Code Section 36933.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be effective upon the commencement of the thirty-first day following the adoption hereof.

The foregoing Ordinance was duly and properly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Los Altos held on June 27, 2023, and was thereafter, at a regular meeting held on July 11, 2023, passed and adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sally Meadows, MAYOR

Attest:

Melissa Thurman MMC, City Clerk

APPENDIX A
AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 6.16

APPENDIX B
AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 11.15