

Winnetka Village Council
STUDY SESSION
April 12, 2022
7:00 PM

Emails regarding any agenda item are welcomed. Please email contactcouncil@winnetka.org, and your email will be relayed to the Council. Emails for a Tuesday Council meeting must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. Any email may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Public Comment
- 3) Gasoline Powered Leaf Blower Working Group Update.....2
- 4) Closed Session
- 5) Adjournment

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes); the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager’s Office at Village Hall (2nd floor). Webcasts of the meeting may be viewed on the Internet via a link on the Village’s web site: <http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/village-videos/>.

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.



Agenda Item Executive Summary

Title: Gasoline Powered Leaf Blowers

Presenter: Marc Hornstein, Chief of Police

Agenda Date: 04/12/22

Consent: YES NO

- Ordinance
- Resolution
- Bid Authorization/Award
- Policy Direction
- Informational Only

Item History:

In 1994, Village Council passed ordinance MC-131-94 that regulated the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers. The ordinance was updated in 1996 and again in 1998. During the public comment portion of the December 3rd, 2019 council meeting, a resident raised the topic of considering further restrictions related to the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers. While not formally assigned as a study topic, staff began to gather information related to area regulations on the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers.

Executive Summary:

In January of 2022, a regional working group comprised of corporate authority staff, elected officials, appointed officials, and landscape professionals was formed to evaluate the gasoline powered leaf blower regulations to be considered by each representative municipality. There are currently 11 area communities represented in the working group that include: Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Kenilworth, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Lincolnshire, Northbrook, Wilmette, and Winnetka.

The working group met on January 31, 2022 and established three sub-committees to research the following areas germane to the topic: 1) existing regulations of other area municipalities and best practices, 2) impact of gasoline powered leaf blowers, 3) alternative equipment. The working group established a time frame to complete the necessary research, and plans to provide a draft report to each city/village manager by October 31, 2022. After reviewing comments and questions, the working group will provide a final report by December 15, 2022.

Since the gasoline powered leaf blower ordinance was adopted in 1994, the police department has solely been responsible for enforcement. Prior to 2018, enforcement of the ordinance was primarily conducted on a complaint basis along with an education component to both landscape companies and equipment operators. Beginning in 2018, the police department made a concerted effort to proactively enforce on-site violations that included the issuance of citations. The current penalty for a violation of the ordinance is a \$100.00 fine.

Beginning in 2021, the police department initiated a new approach to improve ordinance compliance. A letter was sent to area landscape companies requesting their written pledge to honor Winnetka's gasoline powered seasonal leaf blower ban. The initiative resulted in 35 landscape companies who chose to take the pledge. The Village subsequently recognized each company for their commitment. The police department will again seek a pledge commitment from landscaping companies in 2022.

Executive Summary (continued):

The regional working group last met on April 4, 2022. While a report will not be completed until the 4th quarter of 2022, Village staff and the appointed representative wish to provide Village Council with an update on the progress of the working group.

Recommendation:

None - informational only.

Attachments:

1. 2022 Leaf Blower Pledge
2. PowerPoint



ATTACHMENT 1

Marc Hornstein, Chief of Police

Winnetka Police Department

410 Green Bay Road • Winnetka, IL 60093
phone 847.501.6034 • fax 847.716.3466

April 25, 2022

Business Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Landscape Business Owner:

As you may know, the Village of Winnetka has an ordinance controlling the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Each summer, the Winnetka Police Department receives numerous complaints that landscaping companies have violated the ordinance. Last year, we asked you to take a pledge indicating that your company will comply with the leaf blower ordinance outlined below and inform all of your employees of the restriction of their use in Winnetka. This year, we are again asking you to take the pledge by completing the enclosed document and mailing or emailing it to my attention (mhornstein@winnetka.org).

Use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers **between June 1st and September 30th** is strictly prohibited. The use of gasoline-powered generators in conjunction with electric blowers is also prohibited. Any violation of the ordinance is subject to a \$100.00 fine per occurrence. A quick reference card with the details of the ordinance printed in both English and Spanish is enclosed.

From October 1st through May 31st, gasoline-powered blowers may be used between the hours of 8 AM – 7 PM Monday through Friday, and 9 AM – 6 PM Saturday and Sunday. Any use of gasoline-powered blowers outside of the above listed hours is a violation of the ordinance. For further information, call the Winnetka Police Department or view the ordinance on the Village's website (villageofwinnetka.org under "Governance" and "Village Code": Title 9 Chapter 16 Section 020 D21).

Landscaping companies that take the pledge will be recognized on the Village's website, provided they remain in compliance with the ordinance.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,


Marc Hornstein
Chief of Police



Winnetka Police Department

410 Green Bay Road • Winnetka, IL 60093
phone 847.501.6034 • fax 847.716.3466

Pledge to Honor Winnetka's Gas-Powered Seasonal Leaf Blower Ban

I, the undersigned, do hereby pledge:

- To honor the Village of Winnetka's ordinance controlling the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers (WVC 9.16.020 D21), which prohibits their use between June 1 and September 30 of each year, and also prohibits electric leaf blowers powered by gasoline generators.
- To inform all staff working in Winnetka of these rules, violations of which result in a \$100 fine per occurrence.
- To respect the quality of life of residents by minimizing the noise of landscaping activities.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Company: _____

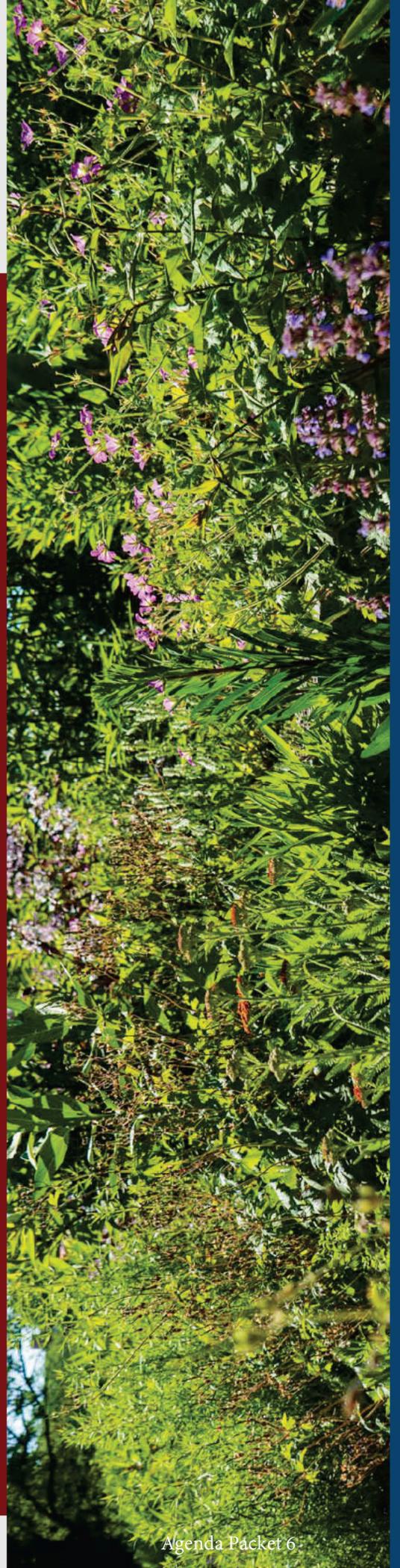
Date: _____

ATTACHMENT 2



THE VILLAGE OF
Winnetka

LEAF BLOWER STUDY SESSION



LEAF BLOWER STUDY SESSION

- Regional working group established January 2022.
- Purpose: to prepare a report on leaf blower regulations and possible impacts of those regulations for the consideration of each community.
- Basis for the study: concerns about noise and environmental impact.
- Participating communities include Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Kenilworth, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Lincolnshire, Northbrook, Wilmette, and Winnetka.
- Members of the group include: staff, elected officials, appointed officials, and landscape professionals.



LEAF BLOWER STUDY SESSION

- Subcommittees were established to study the following topics:
 - Existing regulations of other area municipalities and best practices.
 - Impact of gasoline powered leaf blowers.
 - Alternative equipment.



Next Steps

- **October 31, 2022:** Draft report to be provided to each city/village manager.
- **November 15, 2022:** Deadline for comments and questions from the Village managers.
- **December 15, 2022:** Final report submitted to city/village managers.
- Village managers will work with their respective corporate authorities to present the information in this report to their communities.

