



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#22-0268

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 5, 2022

TITLE: Second Reading - Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinance Section 17-7.7, Specific Restrictions, and Section 17-8.13, Exemptions, to Revise the Hours of Operations for Lawn Equipment - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission consider an ordinance amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances Section 17-7.7, Specific Restrictions, and Section 17-8.13, Exemptions, to revise the hours of operations for lawn equipment for residential areas.

Background

The City Commission tasked a committee, led by Commissioner McKinzie, with members from the public and private sector, to investigate the effects of leaf blowers city-wide. At the December 7, 2021 City Commission Conference Meeting, the committee presented their findings to the City Commission.

The committee explored each of the Commissioner's concerns which included the banning of leaf blowers due to environmental and noise impacts, changing the hours of operation of leaf blowers, and enforcement measures. The investigation of leaf blowers included measuring the noise impacts of gas leaf blowers versus battery operated leaf blowers; impact to the City's Stormwater management system; and operational impacts for the public and private sector. Based on the results of the investigation, the committee and Commission recommended the start of lawn equipment for residential areas be changed from 7am to 8am Monday through Friday. No proposed changes to the existing times for Saturday and Sunday, 8am to 6pm, were proposed. The December 7, 2021, City Commission Conference Meeting Minutes are attached as Exhibit 1.

After the First Reading, staff identified that the proposed language needed to be revised to meet the intent of the proposed code provision, therefore, staff proposes the following modification:

Sec. 17-8. Exemptions.

The following are exemptions to this chapter:

13. Landscaping and yard maintenance power tools or motorized equipment between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday in nonresidential areas, Monday through Friday before between 8:00 a.m. or after and 7:00 p.m. in residential areas, and between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in any portion of the city. Notwithstanding the preceding sentences, No person shall operate or cause to be operated any landscaping or yard maintenance power tools or motorized equipment or appurtenances thereto with sound-control devices less effective than those provided on the original equipment.

To review the proposed text amendment, please refer to Exhibit 2.

Resource Impact

This is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic connection

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Waterway Quality initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Area
- The Future Land Use Element
- Goal 2: The City shall encourage sustainable, smart growth which designates areas for future growth, promotes connectivity, social equity, preservation of neighborhood character and compatibility of uses.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – December 7, 2021, City Commission Conference Meeting Minutes

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance

Prepared by: Karlanne Grant, Principal Urban Planner, Development Service Department

Department Director: Anthony Greg Fajardo, Development Services Department