

March 11, 2003

TORONTO CITY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Amend the Noise By-law to Restrict Leaf-Blowers in Ward 22

WHEREAS the specific authority to regulate and prohibit the operation of leaf blowers within the City of Toronto was removed via amendment from the staff recommendations as proposed in the harmonized Noise By-law (2002); and

WHEREAS the regulation and prohibition of the use of leaf-blowers has been pursued as a municipal Noise By-law issue since at least 1990 in the City of Toronto; and

WHEREAS the noise created by leaf-blowers is disturbing and intrusive; and

WHEREAS this office has received numerous phone calls, emails and letters from residents who have various problems with the use of leaf-blowers; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health recommends regulation of gas-powered leaf-blowers; and

WHEREAS private landscaping companies do not cease activities on Heat and/or Smog Alert days and so are not involved with contemporary efforts to change emissions practices, such as the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS it can no longer be disputed that the use of leaf-blowers is detrimental to the environment as they are noisy and harm air quality; and

WHEREAS it can no longer be disputed that leaf-blowers increase the illegal deposit of private debris, such as leaves or grass clippings onto the public roads and rights-of-way and onto other private property; and,

WHEREAS the situation in St. Paul's, Ward 22, warrants special provisions to control the use of leaf-blowers; and

WHEREAS the work done by a leaf-blower can be achieved, with more precision, by other more traditional methods (i.e. a rake or a broom);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in accordance with Section 27-49 of Chapter 27 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, Planning and Transportation Committee Report No.5, Clause No.1, "Harmonized Noise By-law", be re-opened for further consideration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in reference to Ward 22, City Council amend the Noise By-law (adopted by Council June 18-20, 2002) to *include* Recommendation No.(2)(a) embodied in the report dated November 5, 2001, from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, as amended by the Planning and Transportation Committee, to the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism:

"(2)(a) Section 4 be amended to reflect the prohibited period of time for the operation of a power device that blows or vacuums leaves, grass cuttings, debris or other similar material as follows:

- (i) at all times in Quiet Zones;
- (ii) at all times on residential properties except during the months of October and November for leaf removal;
- (iii) between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Monday to Saturday and at all times on Sunday on non-residential properties; and
- (iv) on Smog Alert days;"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the appropriate City officials be requested to take any action necessary to give effect to the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

Moved by: Councillor Michael Walker

Seconded by: Councillor Howard Moscoe

CJS

