

Offered by Councilor Kenzie Bok, Breadon, Flaherty, Mejia, Arroyo, Worrell, Flynn, Fernandes-Anderson and Louijeane



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING GASOLINE-POWERED LAWN AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT

*WHEREAS:* A study from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment accounts for a large portion of non-traffic gasoline emissions; *and*

*WHEREAS:* Gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment contribute to high levels of localized emissions including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter; *and*

*WHEREAS:* Each of these emissions is classified as a hazardous air pollutant by the EPA, meaning that they are toxic, carcinogenic, and/or ozone-forming; *and*

*WHEREAS:* This includes gas-powered leaf blowers which mostly use two-stroke engines, which utilize fuel inefficiently and release all emissions directly into the environment; *and*

*WHEREAS:* The use of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment, including leaf blowers, poses serious health risks to those frequently exposed including landscapers and ground maintenance staff; *and*

*WHEREAS:* Alternatives to gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment are readily available, including battery-operated leaf blowers which are quieter and emission-free at the source; *and*

*WHEREAS:* Municipalities across the country have taken action to limit or phase out the use of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment, including Cambridge and Lexington in Massachusetts; *and*

*WHEREAS:* To protect the health of our citizens and the environment, as well as improve quality of life by reducing unnecessary noise, the City of Boston should consider regulating the use of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment, and leading by example in regard to its own equipment procurement and use; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

*ORDERED:* That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss options for regulating gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment, and that representatives from the Environment Department, the Boston Public Health Department, the Public Works Department, the Parks Department, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 28, 2022