

LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION

When the leaf blower ban ordinance went into effect in August 2018, the initial policy for enforcement was to educate homeowners and gardeners to obtain voluntary compliance.

Below is a description of the enforcement efforts to date regarding the leaf blower ban. As you can see, the initial effort was to inform property owners and gardeners.

The next step in enforcement was to issue warnings. [Code Enforcement](#) recently added citation books and now have a regular schedule for inspections.

Below is the data collected through October 8, 2019:

Police Department Efforts: 8/4/18 - 10/8/19 Calls for service: 339 Citations: 1

Code Enforcement Efforts: 8/4/18 - 5/23/19 Code Enforcement was granted authority to issue citations and received citation books on May 23, 2019. Prior to that, Code Enforcement would log calls to the Leaf Blower Hotline (310) 937-6677, through Comcate Customer Service (EFM) (Mobil App is called Access Redondo), to the Code Enforcement officer's phone extensions, to the Code Enforcement officer's emails, through resident walk-ins to City Hall Counter Door #2, and from Police Department Dispatch information to document violators.

Approximately 1,375 leaf blower calls have been received and logged to date through this process. Most of those occurred within the first few months of the ordinance going into effect. Code Enforcement was initially issuing Courtesy Notices, primarily to the property owners. On the notice it states "If you are not the responsible party in use of the leaf blower, please call to provide your gardening service's information and scheduled days/time, so staff can contact them directly". As a result, Code Enforcement received several gardeners' information from the property owners, and notices were mailed out to them as well, and they were added to the "Courtesy Notice List".

5/23/19 - 10/8/19 Code Enforcement created a "Repeat Offender List" of leaf blower sites-locations where complaints of addresses that had been reported more than once through the Leaf Blower Hotline or reported to Police Dispatch and documented with pictures sent in by the reporting party. There are approximately 81 properties on this list (North Redondo has 37 and South Redondo has 44). This list contains the address with the day of the week and approximate times when the gardener shows up to the location.

Code Enforcement was previously doing surveillance once a week to the Repeat Offender sites, but now is doing inspections twice a week-once in the morning and once in the afternoon on different days of the week, alternating between north and south. During the inspections conducted so far of these locations during the approximate times when a gardener has been reported to be working, Code Enforcement has in person contacted approximately 50 gardeners and property owners. The calls regarding leaf blower violations from the locations where Code Enforcement contacted the property owners and/or gardeners have decreased.

During several inspections, Code Enforcement observed leaf blower equipment on the gardener's vehicle(s) or on the ground but not being used. Code Enforcement documented the addresses and gave verbal warnings.

Code Enforcement and the Police Department have documented that approximately 15 leaf blower complaints were actually leaf vacuums, not leaf blowers, and therefore are not in violation.

While out in the field, Code Enforcement has observed leaf blowers being used at approximately 17 locations. In contacting the gardeners during those incidents, a records check revealed that a Courtesy Notice had not been issued to 8 of those locations, because a complaint had not been previously filed for that address (address not previously on the Courtesy Notice List or Repeat Offender List). The gardeners were advised that all leaf blowers were banned from the City of Redondo Beach. A picture of the gardener's ID or Driver's License was taken by Code Enforcement for the City's records. Verbal warnings were issued and these locations were documented on the Courtesy Notice List to record that contact had been made at these locations. Code Enforcement issued 2 of the remaining gardeners who were observed using leaf blowers with Police Department citations. Finally, regarding the remaining 7 gardeners observed using leaf blowers, Code Enforcement issued verbal warnings. In those instances, the gardener was asked to provide an ID or driver's license but the gardener only had an out of the country ID. Code Enforcement has since received guidance from the Police Department on how to properly issue citations when ID is not available for future situations of this nature.

During Code Enforcement inspections of the locations on the Repeat Offender List, Code Enforcement has cited 9 gardeners for not having a Business License. This was a correctable citation, and all of those cited have since secured a City of Redondo Beach Business License.

At many of the locations during routine inspections, Code Enforcement did not observe a gardener on site or the licensed gardener did not use a leaf blower.

Recommendations on Alternatives to Increase Compliance:

Although there have not been considerable citations issued, there are gardeners who are coming into voluntary compliance. The complaints have significantly reduced from 1,375 initially logged locations where leaf blowers were being used down to 81 total, just over 5% of those remaining on the Repeat Offenders List.

As Director, Brandy Forbes has taken a more active role with Code Enforcement, and the Department has taken a more collaborative approach with the Police Department and the City Attorney's Office in addressing Quality of Life issues. There are additional steps that Code Enforcement is pursuing to further compliance regarding leaf blowers, such as the following:

- Consider adding a statement on the Business License for gardeners verifying that they agree not to utilize leaf blowers in the City of Redondo Beach.
- Work with other departments (other than Police Department and Code Enforcement) to train those officers who have citation capabilities to issue violations regarding leaf blowers.