



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Manager

City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

To: City Council
From: Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: May 20, 2025

SUBJECT: First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 25-010 amending Chapter 30, Environment, Article III, Noise, Section 30-70, Gas Powered Leaf Blowers, Subsection (2) to allow for the use of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers by Mayoral Proclamation or City Council Resolution During a State of Local Emergency due to a weather event.

BACKGROUND: At the May 6, 2025, City Council meeting, City Councilmembers discussed whether the State of Local Emergency related to Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton should remain in effect or be discontinued. It was the City Council's consensus that the State of Local Emergency related to the aforementioned hurricanes should remain in effect until the Governor suspends the Executive Order for each of the storms.

The current status of the Governor's Executive Orders is:

- Hurricane Ian – Executive Order Number 25-81 – Issued April 14, 2025 – Extends the State of Emergency for 60-days to June 13, 2025.
- Hurricane Helene – Executive Order Number 25-102 – Issued May 14, 2025 – Extends the State of Emergency for 60-days to July 13, 2025.
- Hurricane Milton – Executive Order Number 25-68 – Issued March 31, 2025 – Extends the State of Emergency for 6-days to May 30, 2025.

It is possible that the Governor will extend the State of Emergency for the listed hurricanes prior to the expiration dates shown above.

During the City Council discussion, the City Council directed staff to propose an amendment to Section 30-70, Gas Powered Leaf Blowers, of the Code of Ordinances, as the current Ordinance allows for the continued use of gas powered leaf blowers when a State of Local Emergency related to a storm is in effect.

The proposed Ordinance strikes language stating the prohibition on gas powered leaf blowers in inapplicable during a State of Local Emergency and replaces it with language stating the City, through a Mayoral Proclamation or a City Council Resolution, may waive the prohibition on gas powered leaf blowers when a State of Local Emergency is in effect due to a storm.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

If the proposed Ordinance is approved by the City Council, the use of gas powered leaf blowers would be prohibited in Sanibel, effective immediately, unless waived by a Mayoral Proclamation or City Council Resolution.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Move Ordinance 25-010 to Second Reading on July 15, 2025.

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