



The City of New York

## Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills  
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

**Michael Budabin** Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

To: All Board Members

From: Henry Euler, Committee Chair

Date: October 21, 2022

Re: Leaf Blower Pollution and Noise  
New Issues

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On Thursday, October 20, 2022, the CB11 Environmental Committee met via Zoom to discuss leaf blower pollution and noise and any new business committee members have.

### **Committee Members**

Henry Euler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair and Committee Chair

Chris Scherer

Joan Garippa

Jessica Burke

### **CB11 Staff**

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Mr. Euler commenced the meeting by reviewing his proposed, amended resolution regarding gas- and diesel-powered leaf blowers. Mrs. Garippa noted 3 corrections that should be made. Mr. Euler will amend the proposed resolution. Mr. Marziliano suggested asking the Board Chair, since there was not a quorum present at tonight's meeting, to bring this proposed resolution to the full Board for consideration. Mrs. Garippa agreed so there is no further delay. All members present were in favor of this suggestion.

Discussion ensued regarding battery-operated devices used in other communities to reduce decibel levels. Further discussion ensued regarding lead from airplane fuel. Mr. Euler stated that he read only airplanes with piston-driven engines emit lead. He said that commercial jets do not use leaded fuel. Mr. Euler further stated that the Environmental Protection Agency is looking into this situation. If their findings show this is affecting people on the ground, they will issue an endangerment finding next year. There will then be a public review of the finding followed by a public hearing. Mr. Euler also mentioned the issue of rising seas and climate

change. Mrs. Garippa added that some grocers are being pressured by a group called Friends of the Earth to stop selling items that knowingly contain pesticides.

Ms. Burke raised the issue of the installation of rain gardens by the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP). She spoke about the siting of these gardens with public input and the need for the placement to be done thoughtfully. Ms. Scherer added that once they are installed, they are not being taken care of. Mrs. Garippa suggested that DEP be invited to a Board meeting to explain their procedure for the installation of rain gardens. Ms. Burke has a map of where future installations will be. She will forward to the Board office. Ms. Garippa stated that DEP could explain the map to the Board and Ms. Scherer said the issue of the gardens not being maintained needs to be addressed. Mr. Euler said he will follow-up with Board Chair, Mr. Budabin, to see about having a DEP representative attend a Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted 10-21-22*