



Hyattsville City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: February 1, 2017

Submitted by: Laura Reams

Submitting Department: Legislative

Item Type: Budget

Agenda Section: Discussion Items (8:20 p.m. - 9:50 p.m.)

SUBJECT

Gas Powered Mower Replacement Program

Motion #

Recommendation:

I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL allocate \$10,000 to fund the Gas Powered Mower Replacement Program.

Sponsor(s):

Paschall, on behalf of the Hyattsville Environment Committee

ATTACHMENTS

Summary Background:

Gas-powered lawn mowers are run by small engines that emit disproportionately large amounts of carbon monoxide, volatile compounds, and nitrogen oxides that contribute to smog. The human health effects of smog-laden air are well-known, and include inflammation and damage to lungs, increased risk of asthma attacks, and lowered levels of oxygen in the bloodstream, which can aggravate heart conditions. A 2001 study concluded that "Air pollution from cutting grass for an hour with a gasoline powered lawn mower is about the same as that from a 100-mile automobile ride."

It is recommended that the City offer an incentive for up to 100 Hyattsville residents to receive a \$100 rebate/incentive from the City for replacing their working-condition gas-powered lawn mower with an electric, battery powered or push/reel lawn mower. The City will contact a lawn mower vendor (e.g., Home Depot, Lowes or directly with a company like Stihl) to negotiate a discount for a bulk purchase of new electric mowers. The current cost of an electric lawn mower is about \$200.

Other Information:

1. From Black & Decker: Our trade in programs go through our Factory Service Centers. I have listed your nearest Factory Service Center information below. You may contact the Service Center for information on the trade-in trade-up program if it is offered. Best Regards.

Factory Service Center
7963 Central Ave
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
301-333-0865

2. Local STIHL dealer:

Mike Bebay
sales@commercialmowerdepot.com
(301) 326-1121

Genie McClain
Branch Marketing Manager
Mid-Atlantic STIHL
919-643-4624
genie.mcclain@stihl.us

Websites from similar programs:

1, <http://ozoneaware.org/mow-down-pollution/> (Denver Area)

2, <http://www.blackanddecker.com/en-us/about/events/anaheim-mower-exchange> (Southern CA) --- Looks like B&D does these - might be a good first contact. I sent them an email to see what they can do.

3
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2016/04/lawn-mower-exchanges-best-electric-lawn-mowers/index.htm> - Consumer Reports report.

4. <http://www.baaqmd.gov/grant-funding/residents/lawn-mower-exchange> -- Maryland based program. Has contact on the bottom of the webpage.

Next Steps:

Upon approval of initiative:

1. City contact distributor of Electric/Plug-In mowers (Stihl/Black & Decker - contact information below) to get a discount on a bulk purchase of lawnmowers. It would be ideal to have at least 2-3 different models, offering both electric and battery powered.

2. City puts out notice to residents of this “buy-back/incentive” program. Interested residents will complete the form indicating which electric/battery mower they want. Each mower would have a price shown new and with the \$100 discount. Residents would include payment with the form.

3. City to contact Prince George’s Department of Environmental Services about other rebate incentives that might dovetail with this program.

4. City would have all the new mowers at the DPW site for a Saturday pickup. Residents will be required to bring their gas mower (which must start) to DPW who will properly dispose of the gas mowers. This is an important step because the idea is that we are replacing gas mowers with electric/battery power.

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Fiscal Impact:

This program would cost the \$10,000 (assuming 100 people sign up) as well as the cost for staff time to administer the program.

City Administrator Comments:

Please see staff comments on summary sheet.

Community Engagement:

This incentive could be advertised on the Hyattsville HOPE email listserv and Hyattsville Life and Times newspaper, along with information on how much pollution gas powered lawn mowers produce and the benefits of having a plug in/battery operated mower.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 5 - Strengthen the City's Identity as a Diverse, Creative, and Welcoming Community

Legal Review Required?

N/A