

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURBANK ESTABLISHING ARTICLE 10 USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS PROHIBITED IN CHAPTER 1 HEALTH, TITLE 4 HEALTH AND SANITATION OF THE BURBANK MUNICIPAL CODE AND AMENDING SECTION 214 RESTRICTIONS ON LEAF BLOWER OPERATION IN CHAPTER 3, TITLE 9 OF THE BURBANK MUNICIPAL CODE

City Attorney's Synopsis

This Ordinance establishes Article 10 in Title 4, Chapter 1 of the Burbank Municipal Code by prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within the City of Burbank. The purpose of this Ordinance is to reduce the City's emissions of high levels of pollutants which contribute to significant air quality issues and align the City with California's aim to transition to zero-emission equipment to meet federal air quality standards. Furthermore, this Ordinance will amend Title 9, Chapter 3, Section 214 restrictions on leaf blower operations.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURBANK FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

A. The California Legislature has recognized that gas-powered small off-road engines (SOREs), such as those used in leaf blowers, emit high levels of air pollutants, including oxides of nitrogen, reactive organic gases, and particular matter contributing to the formation of ozone and climate change.

B. To combat air pollutant emissions, California Assembly Bill 1346 added Health and Safety Code § 43018.11 requiring the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt cost-effective and technologically feasible regulations to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new SOREs.

C. CARB updated SORE regulations requiring new engines (Model Year 2024 or later) to be certified and labeled to meet emission standards and other requirements. Furthermore, the new regulations require all sales of new SOREs, including gas-powered leaf blowers, to be zero-emission. There are no bans on the possession, use, repair, or sale of existing equipment (Model Year 2023 and earlier), provided that the equipment complies with the CARB emission requirements applicable to those earlier models.

D. The quality of life in the City of Burbank can be affected by air contamination and noise experienced by those who live, work, and recreate within the City.

E. The City of Burbank desires to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residences, and the environment through the prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers City-wide.

F. The City Council exercises its independent judgement and finds that this Ordinance is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment. No unusual circumstances exist that would preclude the use of this exemption. Furthermore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, this Ordinance is not considered a “project” subject to the requirements of CEQA because the Ordinance has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURBANK DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above findings are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. Title 4, Chapter 1, Article 10 of the Burbank Municipal Code is hereby established to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 10. USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS PROHIBITED

4-1-1001: DEFINITIONS

GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER: means any machine, powered by a gasoline engine which is used to blow leaves, dirt and other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns and any other surfaces.

4-1-1002: PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS WITHIN CITY LIMITS:

Commencing January 1, 2027, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate or authorize the operation of a gas-powered leaf blower at any time for any purpose within the City of Burbank. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the person responsible for any violation of this subsection, regardless of ownership of the gas-powered leaf blower, shall be the person responsible for authorizing the work done using a gas-powered leaf blower.

4-1-1003: VIOLATIONS

The following remedies, in addition to any other remedies allowed by law, are available for violations of this Article:

A. Administrative Fine. Any person who violates any provision of this Article may be subject to administrative fines pursuant to BMC 1-1-108.1.

B. Infraction. Any person who violates any provision of this Article shall be guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than one-hundred dollars (\$100.00), and for a second conviction within a period of one year by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00), and for a third or any subsequent conviction within a period of one year by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

4-1-1004: SEVERABILITY:

If any subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Article is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Burbank City Council declares that it would have adopted this Article, each and every section, and each and every subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof not declared invalid or unconstitutional, without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would subsequently be declared invalid or unconstitutional.”

3. Title 9, Chapter 3, Article 2, Section 214, of the Burbank Municipal Code is hereby amended and restated to read as follows (additions are marked in red and underlined):

“9-3-214. RESTRICTIONS ON LEAF BLOWER OPERATION:

A. Definitions:

LEAF BLOWER: Any machine however powered used to blow leaves, dirt and other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns and other surfaces. This definition shall not apply to gas-powered leaf blowers which are prohibited by BMC 4-1-1001 et. al.

PARCEL: An area of real property with a separate and distinct number or other designation shown on a plat recorded in the office of the County Recorder. Contiguous parcels owned by the same individual or entity shall be considered one parcel for the purposes of this section.

B. Time Restrictions: No person shall operate a leaf blower within a residential zone or within two hundred feet (200') of a residential zone between the hours of six o'clock (6:00) P.M. to eight o'clock (8:00) A.M.

C. Duration of Use: No person shall operate any leaf blower within a residential zone or within two hundred feet (200') of a residential zone for more than fifteen (15) minutes per hour on parcels less than one-half (1/2) acre and no more than thirty (30) minutes per hour on parcels greater than one-half (1/2) acre.

D. Number of Leaf Blowers: No person shall operate more than one leaf blower per parcel within any residential zone or within two hundred feet (200') of a residential zone.

E. Debris Restriction: No person shall operate any leaf blower within the City in such a way as to blow leaves, dirt, and other debris on to adjoining properties and public rights of way and to allow the material to remain there for more than fifteen (15) minutes. [Added by Ord. No. 3122; Formerly Numbered Section 21-37; Renumbered by Ord. No. 3058, eff. 2/21/87; 2383.]”

4. This Ordinance shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after the date of adoption.

5. The City Manager, City Clerk, or their designee, is authorized to execute any action necessary to codify this Ordinance into the Burbank Municipal Code.

6. The City Clerk will certify to the passage of this ordinance and cause the City Attorney Synopsis of this ordinance to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation within 14 days of adoption, that is published and circulated in the City of Burbank, California, or as required by applicable law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of December 2025.

s/Tamala Takahashi
Tamala Takahashi
Mayor

Approved as to Form
Office of the City Attorney

Attest:

s/Kimberley Clark
Kimberley Clark, City Clerk

By: s/Ray Johal
Ray Johal
Senior Assistant City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss.
CITY OF BURBANK)

I, Kimberley Clark, City Clerk of the City of Burbank, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 25-4,037 was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Burbank at its regular meeting held on the 16th day of December 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Anthony, Perez, Rizzotti, Mullins, and Takahashi.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

I further certify that said Synopsis was published as required by law in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Burbank, California within 14 days following its December 16, 2025, adoption.

 s/Kimberley Clark
Kimberley Clark, City Clerk