



Race Equity Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 6, 2025  
6:00 PM  
Chamber Conference Room, City Hall  
280 Madison Ave N  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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The Race Equity Advisory Committee will hold this meeting in person,  
in the City Hall Council Conference Room.  
Attendance may be in person or the meeting is also  
accessible via the Zoom meeting platform.

Zoom Meeting  
<https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/97751595218>  
Telephone: 1-253-215-8782  
Webinar ID: 977 5159 5218

### Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 6:00 PM
2. Housekeeping
  - Accept or Modify January 8 Minutes
  - Accept or Modify February 6 Agenda
  - Conflict of Interest Disclosure
  - REAC Code of Conduct
  - Suquamish Ancestral Land Acknowledgement

3. Public Comment – 6:10 PM

In person public comment is accepted at this time on any topic of public interest. Each commenter will have three minutes, or such amount as the meeting chair determines, to speak. Public comment is not taken on individual agenda items during the meeting. Public comment is simply received by the Race Equity Advisory Committee, with no response, and Race Equity Advisory Committee cannot deliberate on items that are not on the agenda. The lack of comment is not an endorsement or a denial of the comment.

Please refer to guidelines and instructions for public comment, including orderly behavior and civility in remarks ([LINK](#) to instructions). Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting to [cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov), provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

4. Appreciation for Departing REAC Members – 6:15 PM
5. The Election and REAC – 6:20 PM
  - a. Safety at meetings (summary of meeting with City Manager and Police Chief)
    - i. Alternate Meeting Times
    - ii. Incident training & Chief Clark Small Group Meetings
  - b. “Welcoming and Inclusive City” Updates
  - c. Executive Orders – Potential Impacts on REAC Workplan
    - i. Discussion on REAC Workplan revisions and March presentation to Council
  - d. Possible Restructuring of Task Forces
    - i. Winslow Sub-area Plan (member: Olivia)
    - ii. Guiding Principles (members: Eric, Caitlin, Jing)
    - iii. Outreach/Community Events (no members)
    - iv. Technology (members: Olivia, Renni)
    - v. Zero Emissions (members: Jing, Lynn)
6. Equity and Inclusion Manager Report – 7:00 PM
  - a. Racial Equity Toolkit training
  - b. Nonresidents serving on REAC
7. Regular Business – 7:10 PM
  - a. Community Engagement via Email List
  - b. Bystander Training update
  - c. Community Space at 625 Winslow
  - d. Task Force Reports
    - i. Guiding Principles
    - ii. Zero Emissions
  - e. City Council Meeting Report
  - f. Report Out Items for Council
  - g. Other Items
8. Good of the Order – 7:40 PM
9. Adjourn – 7:45 PM

## COBI Race Equity Advisory Committee Minutes—January 8, 2025

### CALL TO ORDER

**Members present:** Renni Bispham, Olivia Hall, Caitlin Lombardi, Eric Stahl.

**Excused:** Lynn Beck, Raul Camacho, Jing Fong

**Liaisons:** Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Jon Quitslund

**Also present:** E&I Manager Anshu Wahi

### MOTIONS

Motion to accept November 7, 2024 minutes. Approved 4-0 (Lombardi/Hall)

Motion to accept agenda as presented. Approved 4-0 (Stahl/Hall)

Motion to hold a joint City Council/REAC meeting for training on the Racial Equity Toolkit at the March 6 REAC meeting. Approved 4-0 (Hall/Stahl)

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### THE ELECTION AND REAC

#### a. Summary of meeting with City Manager and Police Chief:

Following up on the safety discussion at our last meeting, Olivia, Renni and Anshu met with Police Chief Clark. One point of discussion was whether to move REAC meetings to business hours. We are the only City volunteer commission that meets after hours. It may make sense for us to meet earlier if we can agree on a time. Late afternoons might be a good alternative but we will continue the discussion with the rest of the committee Anshu will circulate a scheduling survey.

Other safety measures could include “incident training” from Chief Clark. Chairs will also continue their regular meetings with him.

#### b. “Welcoming and Inclusive City” status:

Anshu provided an update on existing City provisions, including a 2017 “Welcoming and Inclusive City” Ordinance (2017-06) and a superseding “sanctuary state” statute, RCW 10.93.160. Both provide restrictions on police inquiring into individuals’ immigration status unless required by law or court order. Federal law may limit further limitations.

Council member Fantroy-Johnson pointed out the Race Equity Task Force was the group that promoted the “Welcoming City” provision to the City.

Discussion was held about recommending to City Council that it reaffirm the commitment to these provisions, and promote them in City publications. Members should give public comment at Council meeting.

**Report out item:** REAC recommends that Council take up a resolution reaffirming and publicizing the City’s Welcoming and Inclusive City Ordinance

c. Immigrant solidarity:

Discussion held about request from Kitsap Advocating for Immigrant Rights & Equality asking for assistance in promoting immigration rights and defense resources. The information has been forwarded to BIPD Chief Clark and will be maintained as a resource.

d. Possible Restructuring of Task Forces

Continued discussion on shifting from subcommittees to project-based tasks forces.  
Current task forces:

- i. Winslow Sub-area Plan is currently just Olivia
- ii. Guiding Principles is Eric, Caitlin, Jing (Renni is no longer on this one)
- iii. Zero Emissions is Jing, Raul, Lynn

Provisional discussion held about sunseting the Technology task force, to be continued with full membership

Outreach/Community Events currently has no members

We may take up an Immigrant Rights task force. Tabled for now.

**EQUITY AND INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT**

a. Racial Equity Toolkit training

Anshu reported that the toolkit is in its final steps before becoming operational. Scott Winn will be conducting training sessions on February 12 for the City Council. Discussion held about Scott offering a joint council/REAC training at our next meeting March 6

**Motion:** To hold a joint City Council/REAC meeting for training on the Racial Equity Toolkit at the March 6 REAC meeting. Approved 4-0 (Hall/Stahl)

b. REAC Workplan 2025

This is scheduled to be presented to the City Council at its March 18 study session. Our 2024 plan was adopted in June 2024 so we are only 6 months into it; we could ask for an extension. Renni and Eric to meet with Anshu ahead of next REAC meeting to review and make recommendations for the February REAC meeting.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### a. Bystander Training update

The same organization that provided our prior bystander training (Healing Equity United) will be doing another session of its “1.0” training on March 29, 2025. A “2.0” training, open to those who attended one of the 1.0 trainings, will be April 26.

### b. Task Force Reports

i. Winslow Sub-area Plan: Olivia reports there has been some community pushback about proposed density increase in order to create affordable housing. Olivia plans to present REAC’s letter on this issue during public comment at the Planning Commission meetings.

Discussion was held about bringing forward our thoughts on the Guiding Principles (which are from the Comprehensive Plan and could be amended as part of the comp plan update). To be discussed at our next meeting

ii. Zero Emissions: Discussion tabled

c. City Council Meeting Report Renni read Lynn’s emailed summary. Eric to update council review schedule

d. Report Out Items for Council:

**REAC recommends City Council take up a resolution reaffirming the City’s Welcoming and Inclusive City Ordinance and the commitments in it.**

e. Other Items: Olivia reported BARN invited REAC to come for a tour and learn about its equity policies. Caitlin and Olivia will follow up.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Olivia: Ralph Hua’s celebration of life will be rescheduled.:

Anshu: MLK Day proclamation will be presented at City Council January 14. MLK event will be held January 19 at BIMA



## Race Equity Advisory Committee Code of Conduct

The Bainbridge Island Race Equity Advisory Committee encourages community attendance and participation. We are committed to providing a safe environment free from discrimination and harassment.

We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and inclusion and to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with these values. Please be prepared to participate in courageous conversation. Stay engaged. Agree to experience discomfort. Feel welcome to speak your truth. Expect and accept non-closure.

The Race Equity Advisory Committee has assigned two designees as the first point of contact for anyone who thinks that they have experienced discrimination, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior during this meeting. Please contact a designee if you have any concerns.

Today's designees are the REAC Co-chairs.



# dx<sup>w</sup>səq<sup>w</sup>əb

PLACE OF THE CLEAR SALT WATER

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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“Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished.”

*Chief Seattle 1854*

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is within the ancestral territory of the suq<sup>w</sup>abš “People of Clear Salt Water” (Suquamish People). Expert fisherman, canoe builders and basket weavers, the suq<sup>w</sup>abš live in harmony with the lands and waterways along Washington’s Central Salish Sea as they have for thousands of years. Here, the suq<sup>w</sup>abš live and protect the land and waters of their ancestors for future generations as promised by the Point Elliot Treaty of 1855.



SUQUAMISH TRIBE





CITY OF  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

## Public Comment

Members of the public are encouraged to submit public comment to the City Advisory Committees. Interested parties may provide comment by:

- Emailing the [committee members](#). This comment may be submitted at any time.
- Providing in-person comment at a meeting.
- Providing comment at a meeting via Zoom, in accordance with the advance notice and camera requirements.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment in-person at a meeting should sign up to speak on the sign-in sheet. The Chair will call the people signed up on the sign-in sheet, and speakers will have three minutes (or such other time set by the Chair) to speak. The Chair or a designee will indicate when the time has elapsed.

Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice to the City by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting at [cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov), provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

Guidelines for public comment are below. These guidelines were established for and approved by the City Council and also apply to all advisory boards, committees and commissions of the City Council.

### **Excerpts from the Governance Manual regarding public comment:**

#### **5.6 Respect and Decorum**

It is the duty of the Presiding Officer and Councilmembers to maintain dignity and respect for their offices, City staff, and the public. While the Council is in session, the Councilmembers shall preserve civility, order and decorum. No member of the public shall, by conversation or otherwise, delay, disrupt, or interrupt the proceedings of the Council, nor engage in any of the prohibited behavior described below. Councilmembers and the public shall obey the proper orders of the Presiding Officer of the meeting.

##### **5.6.1 Orderly Behavior and Civility in Remarks**

Any person disrupting the business of the Council, either while addressing the Council or attending the proceedings, shall be asked to leave, or be removed from the meeting. Continued disruptions may result in a point of order by the Presiding Officer or a Councilmember pursuant to the Council's parliamentary rules, or a recess, forced removal, or adjournment as described elsewhere in this manual. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Speaking without being recognized by the Presiding Officer.
- b) Continuing to speak after the allotted time has expired.

- c) Speaking on an item at a time not designated for discussion by the public of that item, such as speaking on a quasi-judicial item at a time other than during a public hearing or closed record proceeding on the matter.
- d) Throwing objects.
- e) Speaking on an issue that is not a public topic, in violation of Section 9.12.2.
- f) Speaking in favor of or in opposition to a ballot proposition or a candidate for public office, provided, that public comment is allowed when the City Council is considering taking a collective position in favor of or in opposition to a ballot proposition as authorized in RCW 42.17A.555.
- g) Impersonating a City Councilmember or a member of the City staff.
- h) Shouting or otherwise engaging in loud or boisterous behavior.
- i) Continuing to make repetitive remarks after being requested not to do so by the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City Council.
- j) Attempting to engage the audience rather than the Council, e.g., asking audience members to stand, clap, boo or otherwise express collective support or opposition to any matter.
- k) Booing, hissing, or otherwise disrupting the comments of another speaker.
- l) Using racial slurs or other slurs directed at the color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, or mental, physical, or sensory disability of any individual or group, under circumstances where such words constitute “fighting words” under constitutional law.
- m) Refusing to modify conduct after being advised by the Presiding Officer that the conduct is disrupting the meeting or disobeying any other lawful order of the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City Council.

#### **5.6.2 Permission Required to Address the Council**

Persons other than Councilmembers and Administration shall be permitted to address the Council only upon recognition and introduction by the Presiding Officer of the meeting.

#### **9.12.2 Subjects – Whether or Not on the Current Agenda**

Public comments received during the public comment period may be on any public topic, whether or not on the agenda, but a comment on the subject that is covered by a public hearing at that meeting must be made during the period of the public hearing. All public comments shall be made consistent with Section 5.6.

#### **9.12.3 Use of Microphones**

Comments shall be made directly into the microphone, as it is necessary for the public record and for the audience to hear all proceedings. No comments shall be made from any other location.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09

### **Bainbridge Island Welcoming and Inclusive City Resolution**

A **RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, affirming that Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that respects the fundamental human dignity of all people.

**WHEREAS**, all people — including persons of all races, creeds, colors, national origins, sexes, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, mental abilities, and physical abilities — are respected and valued members of our community, and are vital to our shared health and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming community where diverse people, families, and institutions thrive; and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island's inclusive culture and values enhance our cultural fabric, economic growth, and overall wellbeing for current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, we remember our history, including the oppression of indigenous peoples and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and we vow as a community: Nidoto Nai Yoni — Let It Not Happen Again; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island was the first community in the United States during World War II where, under a dark cloud of racial prejudice, fear, and uncertainty, and a shameful lack of political leadership, Japanese Americans were wrongly exiled from the West Coast; yet the majority of the members of our community believed in fundamental constitutional rights and protections, stood by their friends and neighbors, and refused to succumb to bigotry and hatred; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island is committed to continuing to build an inclusive and safe community, where all persons are fully accepted, integrated, and protected; and

**WHEREAS**, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between our native-born and foreign-born community members are crucial in encouraging and preserving Bainbridge Island's welcoming environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island encourages our businesses, civic groups, schools, government agencies, and other community institutions to undertake their own initiatives, beyond this resolution, to make Bainbridge Island a welcoming place for new residents from other countries, and an inclusive community for all people;

**WHEREAS**, Bainbridge Island is a place of sanctuary for targeted communities and persecuted peoples; a City that opposes hate and bias and acts of intolerance committed against our

neighbors; and a City that vows to cultivate and support a culture of compassion, kindness, and protection; now, therefore,

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

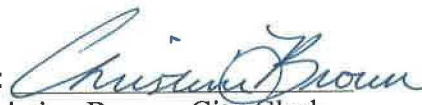
The City of Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that embraces all residents and visitors regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, mental ability, and physical ability; a City that strives for unity and harmony in our community; and a City that respects the essential human dignity of all people.

PASSED by the City Council this 14th day of February, 2017.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 14th day of February, 2017.

By:   
Val Tollefson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

By:   
Christine Brown, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: February 3, 2017  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: February 14, 2017  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09

**ORDINANCE NO. 2017-06**

**AN ORDINANCE** of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, relating to Community Policing.

**WHEREAS**, on February 14, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-09, affirming that the City of Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that respects the fundamental human dignity of all people; now, therefore,

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Immigrant Status Information.**

A. Unless required by law or court order, no City of Bainbridge Island Police Department officer or employee shall inquire into the immigration status or nationality of any person, or engage in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status or nationality of any person.

B. The Bainbridge Island Police Department shall not investigate, arrest, or detain any person based solely on immigration status or nationality.

C. The Bainbridge Island Police Department shall maintain policies consistent with this section.

**Section 2. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days from its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 21st day of February, 2017.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 21st day of February, 2017.

  
Val Tollefson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

  
Christine Brown, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:  
PUBLISHED:  
EFFECTIVE DATE:  
ORDINANCE NUMBER:

February 3, 2017  
February 21, 2017  
February 24, 2017  
March 1, 2017  
2017-06

## Race Equity Advisory Committee

### *Annual Report and Workplan for ~~2024~~2025*

#### Members

Position 1: Lynn Beck

Position 7: Jing Fong

Position 2: Eric Stahl

Position 8: Renni Bispham

Position 3: Caitlin Lombardi

Council Liaison: ~~Brenda Fantroy-Johnson~~[Ashley](#)

#### [Mathews](#)

Position 4: Olivia Hall

Council Liaison: Jon Quitslund

Position 5: ~~Raul Camacho~~

Staff Liaison: Anshu Wahri

Position 6: ~~Savanna Rojelstad~~

#### Report on ~~January 2023~~—~~June 2024~~ Activities

- ~~Helped create job description, criteria, and served on interview committee for~~[Collaborate and communicate with](#) COBI's ~~first~~ Equity and Inclusion Manager
- Organized Council/REAC workshops with Scott Winn to come closer to shared understanding and vocabulary around race equity, [and roles and responsibilities of REAC members](#)
- Consulted on race equity implications of COBI's Uncrewed Aerial Systems Memorandum of Understanding
- ~~Staffed Farmers Market Info Booth~~
- Helped plan and support Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
- Helped plan and support MLK Day Celebration
- Helped plan and support Juneteenth Celebration
- ~~Co-devised, promoted, and coordinated inaugural BI Reads for Justice programming and activities~~
- ~~Drafted~~[Provided feedback on a](#) Racial Equity ~~Lens Toolkit~~ for application in city-related decision making

- Provided recommendation to City Council for ~~zero~~Zero emissions Emissions hand Hand tools Tools ordinance Ordinance
- Assisted in the development of equity-focused questions for and participated in Planning Commission interview panels
- Appointed to affordable housing RFP review panel
- ~~Provided recommendations for the Ted Spearman Justice Center including hard changes to align with ADA requirements and general cultural competency~~
- ~~Cooperatively developed the GOBI naming convention process for public facilities~~
- ~~Served on the Public Art Selection Committee for the Ted Spearman Justice Center~~
- Gave input and guidance for Winslow Sub Area Plan and Comprehensive Plan outreach and engagement process following the DEIS
- Hosted community engagement event for the DEIS
- ~~Met regularly with City Manager and Chief of Police~~
- Submitted recommendation to Council on community response to affordable housing project at 625 Winslow
- Submitted recommendation to Council on applying a racial equity lens to their discussions around affordable housing and expansion alternatives
- Organized Bystander Training attended by over 65 community members
- Assessed Guiding Principles with a racial equity lens
- Engaged with BIHS youth groups
- Met regularly with City Manager and Chief of Police
- ~~Completed listening sessions with community leaders~~
- Responded to community instances of racism and bias both publicly and personally

#### ~~June 2024 – December 2025~~ Workplan Priorities

- Respond to and initiate discussions with Council on recommendations for policy, actions, and community engagement, including issues arising on a national level as requested
- Meet regularly with Equity and Inclusion Manager, Police Chief, and City Manager
- Collaborate with Equity and Inclusion Manager on drafting and finalizing implementing the Race Racial Equity Lens Toolkit for Council approval and adoption

- Schedule and participate in a Racial Equity Toolkit workshop with Scott Winn and council members.
- Encourage Council to apply a Racial-racial Equity-equity lens to policy decisions and guide them through the process
- Initiate and produce community engagement events such as focus groups bystander trainings, equity-based trainings, sack lunch discussion opportunities, and educational events, and events responsive to anticipated hate behavior
- Send recommendation to Council regarding revised Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles with Race Equity Lens applied
- Continue to engage with youth, and consider options for youth engagement on REAC
- ~~Draft a document outlining the responsibilities and protocols to execute those responsibilities of REAC~~
- ~~Schedule and participate follow up meeting with Scott Winn. Topics could include case study discussion and clarified lanes~~
- Develop recommendation to update city code for who can serve on REAC to include off-island business owners and those who have significant ties to the community
- Collaborate with the Climate Change Advisory Committee on making recommendations for the Zero Emissions Hand Tool ordinance
- Continue to advise on community engagement efforts for the Comprehensive Plan and Winslow Sub Area Plan
- ~~Support Council's commitments to immigration and community safety~~
- Support Council's commitments to the Housing Action Plan

## Memorandum

**To:** Bainbridge Island City Manager and Bainbridge Island City Council

**From:** Climate Change and Race Equity Advisory Committees

**Date:**

**Re: Recommendations regarding draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Zero Emission Landscaping ordinance as presented to the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) on May 15, 2024, and to the Race Equity Advisory Committee (REAC) on June 6, 2024 (see Attachment 1—Draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance and the Agenda Center on the COBI website<sup>1</sup>). While both Committees support the spirit and direction of the draft ordinance, we share the following concerns and recommendations.

### Our Concerns

We believe an all-encompassing ordinance such as the draft presented to CCAC and REAC in the spring of 2024 would effectively force residents and contractors to completely retool all of their landscaping equipment at once. In our view, this approach is not appropriate for Bainbridge Island. Our recommendations are based on concerns around the ordinance's scope, the feasibility of adoption at this time, and equity issues, all of which could hinder its acceptance and adoption, and, thus, its effectiveness.

Considering the state of the technology, costs, and the specific landscaping demands on Bainbridge Island, we are concerned that enacting of the ordinance as drafted would place severe hardship on Island residents and landscaping contractors, and potentially force many landscapers to cease operations on the Island. Such disruption could lead to significant push back from Island residents who would need purchase more costly landscaping equipment or services. Moreover, enforcement of the ordinance could be challenging and thus less effective.

### Our Proposed Alternative

As an alternative to the draft ordinance, we recommend Council take a more targeted and phased approach by adopting a Council resolution that (1) considers banning the use of all gas-powered leaf blowers on the Island in the near-term, (2) sets an overall goal for how many landscaping tools used on the Island should be non-gasoline powered by 2030; and (3) supports the business and residential community in their efforts to transition away from their gas-powered tools. This approach broadly resembles efforts by other cities and considers the particularities of Bainbridge Island.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/AgendaCenter>

## **Our Objectives**

The proposed approach, as described further below, supports both the objectives of COBI's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) on the Island by 90% by 2045, as well as the goal to apply an equity-based approach to city actions.<sup>2,3</sup>

## **Detailed Analysis and Recommendations**

Emissions from gas-powered landscaping tools are an identifiable and manageable GHG source category, and we consider it as appropriate for the City to take steps to reduce them. The transition to electric landscaping tools provides an effective, identifiable step that individuals can take to contribute to the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). These individual actions could also accelerate residents' electrification efforts in other sectors like heating/cooling and transportation.

Meaningful and equitable communication as well as meetings with residents and businesses are needed to help ensure a smooth transition and sufficient community support for successful implementation. By addressing the points below, we believe the City Council can create a more efficient, effective and equitable approach that considers the needs of all community members while still achieving important environmental and public health goals.

### **Establish an Achievable Goal**

We recommend that the City Council adopts a resolution setting a goal that by 2030 at least 80% of all landscaping tools used on the Island will be non-gasoline powered. Once adopted by Council, COBI's "Go Electric" website<sup>4</sup> should communicate the goal and the rationale behind it and encourage all residents, contractors, and businesses to plan accordingly.

### **Establish a Phased Approach-- Starting with Leaf Blowers**

We also recommend the City consider a more limited ordinance now to make it more targeted and adopt a phased approach to regulating landscaping tools. As a first step, and subject to input received from residents and landscaping companies, we recommend banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the near term, possibly starting as early as September 2025 but not later than June 2026. The effective date should be based on consultation with landscapers and public input.

The rationale for this first step is the fact that leaf blowers represent the most commonly reported noise nuisance, they tend to emit the most fumes and emissions and pose the greatest health threat to those who operate them. There are reasonably priced, relatively effective, electric alternatives, thus easing the economic impact of such an ordinance.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1331/Climate-Action>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1124/Race-Equity-Advisory-Committee>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

Moreover, given the nuisance factor, there is likely to be less pushback, and more support from our community.

As a second step, the City could consider restrictions on additional landscaping equipment, such as string trimmers and lawn movers in subsequent phases as equipment capabilities improve. Part of that transition would need to include a more thorough analysis of charging needs, as well as realistic ways to ensure access to sufficient battery storage and recharging throughout the day.

### **Provide Information to the Community on the Health and Environmental Impacts**

We recommend providing information regarding the health and environmental impacts from gas-powered tools. Options for electric alternatives should be widely shared with the Community and landscape professionals. Extending the outreach beyond updates to COBI's "Go Electric" website<sup>5</sup> should include a communications or social marketing campaign that, among others, would aim to gain community support for the proposed actions. All communications regarding landscaping equipment should be at least bilingual, i.e., English and Spanish, in order to reach all impacted communities.

### **Revise the Incentive Program**

The currently proposed rebate program applies only to income-qualified Bainbridge property owners, not to commercial companies and is limited to one piece of electric-powered equipment per property address every two years (see Attachment 3 - Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal).

We recommend that the rebate program consider rebates to both residents and to commercial landscaping companies. Limiting incentives only to income-qualified residents will limit the usefulness of the program.

A program should be developed to ensure rebates for equipment and batteries also are available for companies that conduct landscaping business on Bainbridge. Financial incentives also need to be significant and inclusive enough to meaningfully encourage the purchase and use of electric landscaping tools. The City, in conjunction with the CCAC and the REAC, could explore sources of funding that could potentially support the rebates.

### **Explore Partnerships with Area Retailers**

We recommend reaching out to local retailers such as Ace, Home Depot, and Lowes to see if it is possible to get bulk discounts if we aggregate demand from multiple purchasers.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

### **Apply the City's Climate Lens to Any Proposed Ordinance.**

We recommend the City use the climate lens developed for projects on the Island for this program. The CCAC would be happy to help with its application.

### **Prioritize Equity Concerns From the Start of the Process.**

Equity considerations should guide both the outreach and scope when developing the resolution or leaf blower ordinance. Similarly, equitable practices in education and outreach are essential once the resolution or ordinance is adopted. The following actions will help prioritize equity:

a. **Early Inclusion for Equitable Implementation.** Inclusive outreach to BIPOC residential and commercial landscapers must occur before adoption of the resolution or ordinance. We acknowledge that some landscapers may have had negative experiences with government officials in the past and that not all may be licensed and may be hesitant to engage with City officials. As a result, these landscapers will require engagement beyond traditional means. Direct, personal conversations and informal focus groups may provide the City with valuable insights into the practical and financial impacts of transitioning to electric or battery-powered landscaping equipment.

b. **Ensure equitable and effective communication and engagement by:**

- Providing multilingual opportunities for education, information, and questions in at least Spanish and English. Outreach will help determine what other languages may be appropriate.
- Holding multilingual workshops to demonstrate the use and maintenance of electric equipment, potentially with the City's or Parks District's landscaping crews sharing their experiences in transitioning to electric tools. Create short videos that can be shared on the City's website and in emails to residents and landscaping firms.
- Establishing a dedicated Spanish-language hotline or office hours for questions and clarifications. Appointing a Spanish-speaking representative to address questions and provide further information on the initiative.
- Collaborating with the REAC to develop and implement an outreach plan.

c. **Apply a Racial Equity Lens.**

- The current draft of the COBI racial equity lens should be applied to the resolution and any forthcoming ordinance. A racial equity lens must be applied from the outset and throughout the proposed Zero Emission initiative.
- This initiative presents a key opportunity to simultaneously apply both a racial equity lens and a climate lens concurrently to a City project.

d. **Assess Staffing and Resources for Equitable Implementation.**

- Staffing and resources will be critical for equitable outreach, education, and successful implementation. City staff may need to be involved in outreach during the resolution's development phase and most likely in supporting events such as equipment demonstrations and trade-in programs.
- Initiative efforts may be constrained by limited staff capacity, available funding for rebates and incentives, limited local equipment suppliers, and other resource limitations. This is an equity issue.
- Exploring additional funding sources, such as grants and partnering with community nonprofit organizations, will be essential for ensuring equitable outreach, education, and implementation.

## **Additional Background and Discussion**

### **Summary of Key Elements of the Draft Ordinance**

The draft ordinance proposed to prohibit the use of internally combusted hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and lawn mowers rated at 25 horsepower or less on Bainbridge Island after July 1, 2026. Electric-powered hand tools could be used in residential areas on weekdays and Saturdays only between 8AM and 5PM, and in non-residential areas any day between 8AM and 6PM except holidays. Using electric small landscaping tools is prohibited island wide on holidays. There are exceptions for emergency responders.

### **Support for Transition to Electric Tools**

Overall, we support the Council's goal to limit the use of small gas-powered landscaping tools on Bainbridge Island. These efforts strengthen the City's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. We also recognize the negative impact on human health and the environment from these tools (e.g., toxic emissions, particulate emissions, GHGs, vibration, noise harm to users and general nuisance).

We applaud the City for setting an example to transition its own landscaping tools to electric power in 2023.<sup>6,7</sup> We agree with the City's desire to also encourage residents and landscaping maintenance professionals to shift to electric landscaping maintenance tools as soon as possible

### **Similar Efforts in Other Jurisdictions**

Although efforts are underway in some jurisdictions in the U.S. to put in place some level of restrictions on gas-powered landscaping tools, there are relatively limited instances of comprehensive regulation (See <https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/interactive-map-of-lawn-mower-and-leaf-blower-policies/>. See also Attachment 2 which shows approaches some jurisdictions have taken to regulate landscaping tools). While some jurisdictions in

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

<sup>7</sup> [2023 Climate Action Plan Progress Report](#)

Washington are transitioning from gas to electric for at least some equipment, to date statewide bills to require the transition for all landscaping equipment have failed to pass the State Legislature.

### **Health Related Impacts and Opportunities**

Information on the health effects of gasoline-powered equipment is of concern and the direct health impact on equipment users needs to be communicated throughout the residential and business community. An Island-wide ordinance limiting gas-powered landscaping equipment would help improve our community's air quality. It also would improve the occupational health of landscape workers, who are disproportionately Latino and other black indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

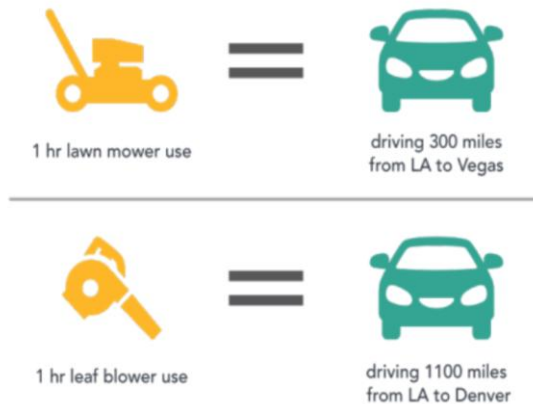
COBI's "Go Electric" website provides some information about environmental and health related impacts from gas-powered landscaping tools. For example, it explains that lawn tools with a two-stroke engine can spew 20 to nearly 300 times the emissions of a car.<sup>8</sup>

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the harmful emissions of landscaping equipment are significant. Data for 2020 indicates such equipment emitted on a national level:

- Nearly 22,000 tons of fine particulates – pollutants that have been linked to respiratory ailments, reproductive and mental health issues. That's as much pollution as would be produced annually by 234 million typical cars.
- More than 68,000 tons of nitrogen oxides and 350,000 tons of volatile organic compounds – the two chemical components of ground-level ozone, which triggers asthma attacks and contributes to premature death. Nitrogen oxide emissions from lawn equipment are equal to annual emissions from 30 million typical cars.
- More than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading cause of global warming.
- A wide array of chemicals that cause cancer, including benzene and formaldehyde.
- The following graphic from Colorado demonstrates the air emission contribution of leaf blowers as compared to lawnmowers by equating one hour of their use with amount of miles driven by a gas-powered vehicle.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>



### **Mixed Opinions on Regulating Landscaping Equipment**

In 2023, the City of Bainbridge Island conducted a survey seeking community input on possible ways to regulate landscaping equipment. Responses from Bainbridge residents were varied with many expressing support for some level of regulation, especially around leaf blowers.

Others believed this is city overregulation and not a priority. Responses included support for a rebate or incentive program and specific financial assistance for small businesses. Other respondents also expressed concerns about the cost and efficacy especially for larger acreage properties.

The survey results indicate limited support for such a regulation from business owners. They stated that increased cost of equipment and batteries, the significant impact on small businesses, efficacy and efficiency of electric equipment for commercial use, and the ability to recharge throughout the day are the biggest issues for commercial users.

### **Needs to Recognize the Costs Imposed on Landscaping Businesses**

In our view, the ordinance needs to recognize the costs imposed on the owners of landscaping businesses for switching to electric-powered equipment and thus, move judiciously to gain support for these changes. The current proposal does not address the business needs of the people who will be most impacted by a ban on all gas-powered tools: the professional landscaping crews who work on the Island. These workers, predominantly Latino, take care of Island properties but operate their businesses from off-island locations. Expecting landscaping companies to just pass the increased cost of new equipment to their customers is not reasonable and does not appear to be supported by the wider community.

### **Learn from the Experience of the BI Parks District and the City**

We understand that the Bainbridge Island Parks District is transitioning to electric tools for its landscaping work. An informal discussion with staff indicates they have been able to make a partial transition but have found it challenging to do so for various aspects of

their works. The Parks District staff did not feel a wholesale transition would be practicable at this time given the varied their work requirements. Also, the City's transition to electric tools led to the following staff level conclusion regarding the efficacy of electric landscaping tools: *Electric tools are good for some applications but are problematic for others. Overall, the consensus is they have their uses and do well in some applications, but we should look at what the application is and determine what the most efficient and appropriate tool for the job is.*

## **Conclusions and Attachments**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft ordinance. We are happy to work with the City staff on specific resolution or ordinance language, community education and outreach.

Attachment 1 Draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance

Attachment 2 Table of some other jurisdiction's approach to regulating landscaping tools

Attachment 3 Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal

# Bainbridge Island Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal

Last Updated: May 7, 2024

## Purpose

The City Council will be considering an electric landscaping tool ordinance. The potential ordinance would prohibit gas engines for leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, string trimmers, and non-riding mowers with less than 25 horsepower. Equity concerns have been raised at the possibility of this ordinance. Staff are proposing the following equity-driven Lawn Care Rebate Program.

## Program Funding Request

Staff request \$50,000 be allocated to rebates to eligible residents. Staff also requests \$2,000 for program outreach. This \$52,000 would come from funding allocated to the Climate Action Plan. This does not include any funding dedicated to staff time.

## Process

1. A resident purchases an eligible tool from participating retailers.
2. Within 30 calendar days from the date of purchase, the resident takes their old lawnmower to Bainbridge Disposal. They must ensure all fluids have been removed from the machine to be accepted. Bainbridge Disposal has offered to for-go the resident drop-off cost for program participants.
3. A resident would then complete the online rebate application and submit it to the City. The form would require the submittal of a receipt or invoice for the lawn care equipment, proof of income eligibility, and a copy of a drop-off form designed by the City and handed out by Bainbridge Disposal.
4. Staff review and either approve or deny the application. Once approved, a check would either be mailed to the resident, or they can pick up at City Hall.

## Income Qualification

Income qualification will be based on US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Income Limits for the Bremerton-Silverdale metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The income thresholds for income-qualified incentives are 80% area median income (AMI) and below. Income thresholds will be adjusted for household size and will follow HUD 2023 Income Limits methodology. Income thresholds are shown in the table below.

Bainbridge Island Lawn Care Rebate Program Income Limits								
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
80% AMI	\$61,000.00	\$69,700.00	\$78,400.00	\$87,100.00	\$94,100.00	\$101,050.00	\$108,050.00	\$115,000.00

According to Census data, the average family size is 2.84 on Bainbridge Island. Rounding up to three and based on these income qualifications, this program could assist up to 1,500 families. However, not all families live on a parcel of land that requires them to maintain their lawn, nor do all families own gas-powered lawn care equipment, thus this number is a conservative estimate.

## Rebate Options

Staff researched West Coast governments that currently implement a lawn care rebate program. Based on the review, staff recommend modeling Bainbridge Island's program off of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's *Clean Green Yard Machines* program.

The program would offer the following rebates:

- Up to \$100 for a purchase of \$200 or less<sup>1</sup>
- \$150 for a purchase of \$201-\$350
- \$250 for a purchase of \$351+

If all 1,500 families were to participate in this program, the estimated rebate amount that would be distributed would range from \$150,000<sup>2</sup> to \$375,000,<sup>3</sup> however, staff expect this to be a conservative estimate based on factors mentioned in the previous section.

Per the funding request, the budget would allow up the following:

Voucher Amount	Maximum Number of Vouchers Available
Up to \$100	500
\$150	333
\$250	200

## Program and Eligibility Requirements

The City would implement the following program and eligibility requirements:

- Submittal of an application does not guarantee a rebate. Program eligibility is determined at the sole discretion of the City. The participant will be notified if their application is deemed ineligible.
- Applicant must be a resident at the address identified in the application.
- Limit one (1) rebate per address for every two (2) consecutive years.
- Combo kit with one power unit and multiple attachments is considered one equipment type.
- For bundle purchases of two or more pieces of eligible equipment, separate applications must be submitted for each piece of equipment. Equipment purchased as part of a bundle are eligible for separate rebates only if each piece of equipment has a separate power unit. For the first piece of eligible equipment, the rebate amount is based on the current individual retail price of that specific equipment. The rebates for subsequent eligible pieces of equipment in the bundle with a separate power unit are based on the remaining balance of the purchase price of the bundle, less the current individual retail price of the first piece of equipment for which the rebate was applied.
- Applicant must submit a rebate application within three (3) months of the purchase date of the new equipment.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant will be responsible for a minimum of 50% of the purchase price for equipment priced \$200 or less.

<sup>2</sup> 100% participation on the \$100 rebate

<sup>3</sup> 100% participation on the \$250 rebate

- The new electric equipment must be purchased with a power unit and from a manufacturer-authorized retailer or dealer.
- Applicant must turn in a fully functional old gas- or diesel-powered lawn care equipment to Bainbridge Disposal for permanent recycling.
- Applicant must maintain ownership of the new lawn care equipment for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years following the purchase date.
- New equipment must:
  - Be new, not used, or previously owned
  - Be electric (corded or battery-powered)
  - For mowers, be push or self-propelled under 25 horsepower (or equivalent) for residential use
  - Have a minimum one-(1) year manufacturer warranty
- Lawnmowers that are not eligible:
  - Reel mowers
  - Riding lawn mowers
  - Tractors used to pull mowing equipment
  - Tow-behind mowers
- The rebate period would begin upon passage of the ordinance and end when the mandate for electric lawn care equipment begins.

**ORDINANCE 2024-**

**AN ORDINANCE** of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, adding a new chapter 16.14 to the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code prohibiting the use of landscaping tools powered by internal combustion engines and regulating the use of electric-powered landscaping tools.

**WHEREAS**, use of small landscaping tools that are powered by internal combustion engines contributes to noise, toxic emissions, particulate matter, vibration, and greenhouse gases that negatively impact human health and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, electric-powered alternatives for small landscaping tools are widely available in the market; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bainbridge Island City Council desires to limit the use of certain small landscaping tools that are powered by internal combustion engines in furtherance of the City’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Small Landscaping Tools.** A new chapter 16.14 is hereby added to the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code to read as follows:

**SMALL LANDSCAPING TOOLS**

- 16.14.010      Purpose.
- 16.14.020      Definitions.
- 16.14.030      Use of Small Landscaping Tools.
- 16.14.040      Exception for Emergency Responders.
- 16.14.050      Penalty.

**16.14.010      Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to control dust and other airborne pollution, reduce health hazards, and minimize noise pollution resulting from the use of leaf blowers and other small landscaping tools that are powered by internal combustion engines.

**16.14.020      Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

- A. “Hedge trimmer” means a powered gardening tool used for trimming and cutting back bushes, shrubs, and hedges.
- B. “Internal combustion engine” means an engine within which fuel (typically gasoline or diesel) is combined with an oxidizer and ignited, thereby producing hot gases that drive a piston or perform other work as they expand.
- C. “Lawn edger” means a powered cutting tool used to form distinct boundaries between a lawn, typically consisting of grass or other botanical ground cover, and another ground surface feature such as paved, concreted or asphalted area, or a granular material such as sand or uncovered soil.
- D. “Leaf blower” means a tool that propels air out of a nozzle to move debris, such as leaves or grass cuttings.
- E. “Non-riding lawn mower” means a tool that uses one or more revolving blades to cut grass or other landscape material to an even height and that is not designed to be ridden by the operator.
- F. “Small Landscaping Tools” means hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, leaf blowers, non-riding lawnmowers, and string trimmers.
- G. “String trimmer” means a tool that uses a rapidly spinning flexible monofilament line or plastic line to cut grass or other landscape material.

**16.14.030 Use of Small Landscaping Tools.**

- A. Use of the following small landscaping tools is prohibited in the City of Bainbridge Island:
  - 1. Hedge trimmers powered by internal combustion engines;
  - 2. Lawn edgers powered by internal combustion engines;
  - 3. Leaf blowers powered by internal combustion engines;
  - 4. Non-riding mowers powered by internal combustion engines that are rated at 25 horsepower or less; and
  - 5. String trimmers powered by internal combustion engines.
- B. The use of electric-powered small landscaping tools is permitted in residential zones subject to the requirements of this section, provided, that hours of operation are limited to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. Operation is prohibited on Sundays and on federal, state, and City holidays.

- C. The use of electric-powered small landscaping tools is permitted in non-residential zones subject to the requirements of this section, provided, that hours of operation are limited to 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Operation is prohibited on federal, state, and City holidays.
- D. Cuttings, refuse, and debris shall not be blown or deposited onto neighboring properties, into critical areas (such as streams, ravines, and wetlands), into storm facilities (such as gutters, catch basins, rain gardens and dispersion trenches), or into a street.
- E. After small landscaping tool use, all debris and waste materials shall be disposed of in yard waste receptacles (if available from the local solid waste hauler), at a transfer station (if yard waste is accepted for disposal separate from garbage), or retained on site for compost or other uses. Debris and waste materials shall not be disposed of in containers designated for trash or garbage.

**16.14.040      Exception for Emergency Responders.**

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this chapter, small landscaping tools powered by internal combustion engines may be used by police, fire, and public works emergency responders for the purpose of responding to emergency situations, including but not limited to, the clearing of downed trees and brush in areas needing expedient clearing for the safety of the public.

**16.14.050      Penalty.**

Any person or firm violating any of the provisions of this chapter for the first time shall be issued a warning by the City. A second violation by the same person or firm shall be a Class 2 civil infraction and, upon a finding that the infraction has been committed, the violator shall be required to pay a monetary penalty in the amount of \$125.00. A third or subsequent violation shall be a Class 1 civil infraction and, upon a finding that the infraction has been committed, the violator shall be required to pay a monetary penalty in the amount of \$250.00 for each such violation,

**16.14.070      Education and Outreach.**

As necessary, the city manager, or their designee, and pursuant to BIMC 16.14, shall provide, or contract for the provision of, education and outreach activities to inform residents, landscaping professionals and other interested individuals about the requirements of this chapter. Education and outreach will be designed to promote natural yard care practices, effectively convey the policies underlying

this chapter, describe the actions necessary to gain compliance with its provisions, and minimize the need for formal enforcement action. The city will emphasize education and outreach rather than enforcement to achieve compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

**Section 2. Severability.** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be preempted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or preemption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force July 1, 2026, which is more than five (5) days from its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Joe Deets, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

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Christine Brown, MMC, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:  
PUBLISHED:  
EFFECTIVE DATE:  
ORDINANCE NUMBER: