

Council Members Albornoz, Katz, Balcombe, and Luedtke should be ashamed of themselves for advancing Bill 19-25. They know full well that this measure effectively overturns the County's ban on gasoline powered leaf blowers. The notion that this bill just provides a "seasonal exemption" is absurd. The leaf blowing season is in the fall. Everyone knows that.

Leaf blowers are devastating for landscape workers' health, causing hearing damage and forcing them to breathe in noxious air pollutants and whatever happens to fly up from the ground. I wonder, would you four Councilors want to be told by your employer to use these machines? Do you really enjoy the disruption they cause to people who are trying to work from their homes or to people trying to just enjoy sitting outside?

Council Member Albornoz is supposed to be representing everyone in the County. But it seems he's mostly focused on catering to a small group of landscape companies that have decided they don't like the ban. Such companies are already outdated. The best companies use electric equipment. They must, because of the District's ban on leaf blowers. But the technology has advanced well, in part because localities like Montgomery County have forced those improvements.

You can bet that my friends, family, and I will remember what the Council does when the next election rolls around.