

My name is Rich Biedrzycki. While I am a member of Strong Towns DC, this comment is made as a resident of downtown Bethesda and does not represent the opinion of Strong Towns DC.

I oppose Expedited Bill 19-25. Gas-powered leaf blowers should remain banned. They produce significant amounts of air pollution due to the nature of their motors, and they produce significant amounts of noise, resulting in large negative impacts on residents. Switching to electric-powered leaf blowers addresses both of these issues.

The ban was passed in October 2023, and sales of gas-powered leaf blowers were banned in July 2024. There has been plenty of time for landscapers to purchase and pay for new electric leaf blowers to replace their gas leaf blowers. This bill would be unfair to landscapers who have made the financial investment to comply with the current law while benefiting those who selfishly delayed compliance. It is only fair for our small business owners who chose to do the right thing for the environment and their communities that the ban remain in place as is.

I hope that the council will side with the environment, residents, and forward-thinking business owners by voting against this legislation.