

Sligo Park Hills Community Association

July 11, 2025

To the Montgomery County Council,



The Sligo Park Hills Community Association represents 300 households in a leafy neighborhood of East Silver Spring. The SPHCA strongly opposes Bill 19-25, the proposed delay to full implementation of Montgomery County's ban on the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. The ban went into effect on July 1.

It has been two full years since the Council voted for this ban. Since then, the County's rebate program has helped many companies transition to electric-powered leaf blowers. We see no reason to delay full implementation any longer.

The ban has many clear benefits: preventing hearing loss, reducing exhaust emissions, harmonizing with other municipalities with bans already in place, and minimizing nuisance noise for County residents. There are also environmental benefits to "leaving the leaves" under trees and bushes, such as free mulch, supporting wildlife, and reducing stormwater erosion. Furthermore, homeowners can reduce their landscape maintenance costs by reducing leaf blower usage, in favor of leaving the leaves.

Opposition to the ban will only postpone the inevitable. Surely some opposition is coming from employers uninterested in protecting their employees' health or respecting the health of their customer base. The proposal would gut a program with broad support, and which needs the continued full support from the County Council. We strongly encourage every Councilmember to vote against the proposal.

Sincerely,

David Heller, President

Sligo Park Hills Community Association