

Councilmembers,

I strongly support the current policy approved in Bill 18-22 Banning Use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers. Allowing an exception for gas-powered equipment during the best season for outdoor enjoyment will significantly disrupt neighborhood peace and diminish our quality of life.

Many landscaping companies already overuse equipment, frequently arriving back-to-back daily and creating excessive noise throughout all days of the week and weekends. I work from home and neighbors who stay at home agree, landscapers are unnecessarily mowing and landscaping even when grass is dormant. Our neighborhood already experiences excessive noise from industrial-sized mowers, and electric leaf blowers are perfectly capable of handling necessary leaf removal without adding considerable noise. Furthermore, the proposed exception dates are unnecessarily long; leaves typically fall from late October to Thanksgiving here in Montgomery County, and general mowing/landscaping, including electric leaf blowing, should conclude by the end of November.

I urge the Council to maintain the existing ban on gas-powered leaf blowers which prioritizes the quality of life for all Montgomery County residents. Please reject Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption.

Regards,
Stephen Ashurst
Burtonsville, MD