

September 19, 2022

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

To the Council:

As a new resident in Montgomery County this year, I was dismayed to discover that gas-powered leaf-blowers are allowed, and widely employed. You do not need to be reminded that they are used so frequently (essentially every day of the week), and the noise is so loud and penetrating, that they can be heard periodically throughout the day. This results in horrible (sometime nearly deafening) disturbance and noise pollution. It often seriously interferes as residents such as I attempt to work from home, disrupts many other activities, and detracts from the beauty and quality of life that otherwise defines the County.

I base these concerns on a clear comparison: the District of Columbia. Much as Montgomery County, for years gas-powered leaf-blowers were pervasive and no less disruptive. The D.C. City Council exercised good judgement in banning all gas-powered varieties of such equipment (allowing several months before the restrictions took effect). The result was a dramatic improvement in the environment and quality of life. The Council can exercise equally good judgement in promptly enacting Bill 18-22 now under consideration.

I close by pledging that, as a taxpayer, should the transition to lower power electric leaf-blowers (or better, rakes and brooms) result in increased public costs for lawn maintenance in public areas, and I will gladly pay my share of this cost.

Thank you for addressing this specific matter, and for your commendable public service.

Sincerely,  
John Tambornino