

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B**  
**GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS**



**Resolution Regarding the Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act (B22-0234)**

**Whereas**, the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers has been shown to contribute to serious environmental and public health problems;

**Whereas**, among the risks to health and the environment from the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers are the disturbance of topsoil and the dispersal into the atmosphere of particulate matter, including herbicides and pesticides, spores, fungi, pollen, microbes, allergens, animal feces, and other fine particles that can get into the lungs and into the bloodstream;

**Whereas**, it has been demonstrated that noise levels generated by most gas-powered leaf blowers substantially exceed levels deemed to be safe for prolonged human exposure;

**Whereas**, among the populations most seriously threatened by the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers are those individuals operating the equipment themselves, as well as others exposed to the noise and pollution in close proximity, especially children, seniors, and others who already suffer from asthma and other respiratory conditions;

**Whereas**, workers employed by lawn maintenance companies are frequently powerless to raise concerns regarding the risks to their health from their daily operation of equipment that creates loud noise as well as emissions of unhealthy chemicals and particulates, leaving them particularly vulnerable to hearing loss, respiratory difficulties, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, neurological impairment, and cancer;

**Whereas**, the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers can create extreme disruption of daily life for those nearby, degrading their quality of life and making it difficult to have normal conversations, conduct work, get infants to sleep during the day, or take care of other needs, affecting many residents who spend days at home, telecommute, perform child care or work at jobs in the neighborhood;

**Whereas**, existing laws in the District designed to limit the noise levels of leaf blowers have proven to be difficult to enforce and ineffective in addressing these problems;

**Whereas**, alternatives exist for safe and effective leaf control and management, including quieter battery-powered or electric leaf blowers, that do not generate the same harms to public health and the environment as gas-powered leaf blowers;

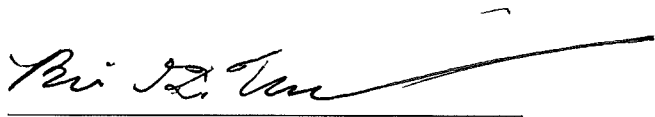
**Whereas**, a number of other cities in the United States have moved to prohibit the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers to protect their citizens from associated risks and improve their quality of life; and

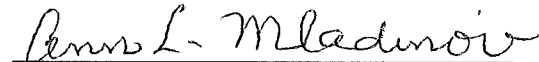
**Whereas**, Council Bill B22-0234 has been introduced by Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh to phase out the sale and operation of gas-powered leaf blowers in the District of Columbia by 2022, to allow time for current owners and sellers of such equipment to get value from the models they have already purchased and transition to healthier and less environmentally damaging alternatives;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Commission supports Bill B22-0234 and the urges the DC Council to hold a hearing on it as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioner Melissa Lane (ANC3B-03) and any other member she designates are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

This resolution was APPROVED by a vote of 3-1-1 at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC3B on February 8, 2018, at which a quorum was present (3 of the 5 members constitute a quorum).

  
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Brian Turmail, Chairman

  
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Ann Lane Mladinov, Secretary