

CPCA Resolution on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers
Passed by CPCA Membership 9/10/17

Whereas 2- stroke gas powered leaf blowers are a health hazard due to the ozone-forming chemicals and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) they produce;

Whereas ozone and PM2.5s are well known causes of, or contributors to, early death, cardiovascular disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, premature births, and other serious health conditions;

Whereas workers, children, seniors and people with chronic illness are at greatest risk from these pollutants;

Whereas the noise from gas-powered leaf blowers at the ear of the operator far exceeds the level found to be harmful to human health by US EPA and OSHA;

Whereas such noise also interferes with the peace and tranquility of our neighborhood, especially impacting those who are home-bound, retired, disabled, engaged in child-care, and/or working at home;

Whereas the high-velocity air jets from gas powered blowers (150-280 mph, comparable to the strongest hurricanes) disturb topsoil and disperse spores, fungi, pollen, microbes, other potential allergens, and particles of animal feces into the ambient air, putting workers and passers-by at risk;

Whereas electric/battery powered leaf blowers, which do not produce these pollutants and which are operated with comparatively little noise and at lower speeds, are now coming on the market at competitive pricing;

Whereas, a number of cities in the United States have now moved to prohibit or strictly limit the operation of gas powered leaf blowers, in order to protect their citizens and to advance their quality of life;

Whereas CPCA held a community forum on April 19, 2016 , “Toward Quieter, Cleaner Neighborhoods,” which explored the issues pertaining to use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and available alternatives;

Whereas CM Mary Cheh has introduced “The Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2017” with four cosponsors to eliminate use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the District as of January 1, 2022, providing ample time for homeowners and lawn care companies to switch over to electric/battery-operated equipment;

Therefore the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association recommends to the membership that CPCA go on record in support of “The Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2017.” (Post note: by adopting this resolution, CPCA members went on record in support of the legislation.)