



HEARING NOTES

Council Bill: 25-0035

Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment – Prohibition – Enforcement

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Chaired by: Councilwoman Phylicia Porter

Hearing Date: April 9, 2025

Time (Beginning): 11:30 AM

Time (Ending): 11:47 AM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 13

Committee Members in Attendance:

Phylicia Porter	Mark Conway	John Bullock	Ryan Dorsey
Mark Parker	James Torrence	Odette Ramos	

Bill Synopsis in the file?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Agency reports read?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Motioned by:	Dorsey		
Seconded by:	Torrence		
Final Vote:	Fav. With Amendment		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Michelle Toth - City Solicitor's Office

Gabriel Stewart - Department of Finance

Jessica Speaker - Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Health

Britney Vendre - Executive Director, Environmental Control Board

Major Issues Discussed

1. Technical Fixes to Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment Prohibition:

- Purpose of clarifying and conforming enforcement provisions for previously passed legislation
- Addressing practical and legal barriers that were inadvertently missed in original bill
- Ensuring the law can be effectively applied and upheld in real-world situations

2. Citizen Reporting Mechanism:

- Impracticality of expecting health department officials to witness violations in real-time
- Need for citizen-initiated enforcement through reports and photographic evidence
- Addition of explicit affidavit requirement to formalize the reporting process
- Ensuring enforcement actions can be taken based on citizen documentation

3. Cease and Desist Process:

- Law structured to issue cease and desist before fines for violations
- Original bill omitted ability to issue cease and desist based on photographic evidence
- Technical correction to allow cease and desist orders based on complaint, photo evidence, and affidavit
- Creating logical progression from reporting to enforcement

4. Enforcement Mechanism Corrections:

- Original bill mistakenly included both civil and criminal penalties
- Clarification that enforcement should be environmental or civil, not criminal
- Addition of environmental citation enforcement mechanisms
- Placement of appropriate penalties in correct sections of the code

5. Property-Based Enforcement Approach:

- Practical difficulties in identifying and enforcing against unknown contractors
- Solution of tying violations to property owners rather than equipment operators
- Creating accountability for property owners who hire services using prohibited equipment
- Ensuring consistent enforcement regardless of who operates the equipment

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

P. Porter:Yea
M. Conway:Yea
M. Parker:Yea
R. Dorsey:Yea
J. Bullock:Yea
J. Torrence:Yea
O. Ramos:Yea

Deontre Hayes
Committee Staff: Deontre L. Hayes
Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

Date: April 10, 2025

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
VOTING RECORD**

Council Bill#: 25-0035 DATE: April 9, 2025

TITLE: Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment – Prohibition – Enforcement

MOTION BY: Dorsey SECONDED BY: Torrence

☐ **FAVORABLE**

☒ **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

☐ **UNFAVORABLE**

☐ **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Porter, P.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conway, M.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parker, M.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, R.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrence, J.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bullock, J.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ramos, O.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS				

CHAIR: Phylicia Porter



COMMITTEE STAFF: Deontre Hayes, Initials: DA

City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Public Health & Environment Committee

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

10:01 AM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2344 413 8321, Password: Public
Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m98b435f56bacfebae661bb9b8d970304)
MTID=m98b435f56bacfebae661bb9b8d970304

Bill 25-0035 - Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment - Prohibition - Enforcement

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Phylicia Porter, Mark Conway, Mark Parker, Ryan Dorsey, James Torrence, John Bullock, and Odette Ramos

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

[25-0035](#)

Sponsors: Ryan Dorsey, Mark Parker, Sharon Green Middleton, Paris Gray, Zac Blanchard

A motion was made by Dorsey seconded by Conway, that this Ordinance be Recommended Favorably with Amendment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Porter, Conway, Parker, Dorsey, Torrence, Bullock, and Ramos

ADJOURNMENT