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13 June 2024

Councilman Ryan Dorsey
100 Holliday Street, Room 523
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: File #23-0367 Prohibition – Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment

Dear Councilman Dorsey:

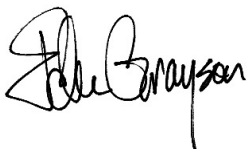
Please accept this letter as my unreserved **support** for Council Bill 23-0367 prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLB). I applaud your efforts to improve the quality of life for all Baltimoreans by forbidding their use. As I write to you, I am again confined inside our house. The windows tightly shut on a mild June morning. We are swamped, on three sides, by commercial lawn crews blasting away with their industrial gas blowers. The exhaust fumes are nauseating. The toxic dust clouds are blowing indiscriminately. The overpowering noise is inescapable.

It's basic common sense that GPLBs don't remove debris. They just blow it around making it everyone else's problem. Anyone who's painting outside while these machines are blowing debris everywhere knows this. And forget those plans to grill and dine on the patio. Everything's covered in dust. Anecdotes aside, credible scientific evidence is abundant. The data are easy to find. And shocking. For your proposal to have reached this stage, I needn't reiterate the figures here.

Operationally, the only people who benefit from these infernal devices are the entrepreneurs who deploy them. It's all about maximizing efficiency and profits. Everyone else must suffer. Especially the workers. We cannot wait for the market to influence change. **The decision before the City Council is a prime example of when legislation for the public good is necessary and appropriate because it outweighs the private benefits for the few.**

These machines are not merely a menacing nuisance. They are a **public health crisis** that, for more than two decades, has grown uncontrolled like an invasive garden weed. Baltimore will be much better by joining the numerous other municipalities across the country that have vanquished GPLBs. Here's looking forward to cleaner, quieter air and an improved quality of life in our city.

With kindest thanks -



John Grayson, MPA

Cc: Councilman Mark Conway