



## **Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland**

### **Office of the Mayor**

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Barve,

I am writing this letter in addition to the letter, sent separately, documenting the Town of Riverdale Park's formal support of HB 626/PG 305–21: Prince George's County – Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems.

Delegate Nicole Williams introduced this bill after I discussed with her an issue of concern to many residents of the Town of Riverdale Park, namely that trucks are driving through residential neighborhoods at all hours of the day and night, in spite of the fact that these roads are *clearly* marked to forbid truck traffic that does not have a local destination.

Much of our community is historic, with narrow streets that reflect the standards of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century, or are newer neighborhoods designed to be pedestrian-friendly, with streets designed to slow traffic. None of these roads are designed to handle large trucks, but GPS-based navigation systems persistently send truck traffic through these neighborhoods, waking up sleeping residents with noise, emitting diesel fumes, and damaging the streets (and often landscaping next to the streets if they cannot make a tight turn without going over the curb). While our police department is able to write tickets to enforce our prohibition, this requires regularly dedicating a police officer for hours at a time (at a time of day when officer attention is needed elsewhere in town) with little long-term impact on the flow of trucks. We believe that consistent enforcement by automated systems will dramatically reduce the problem, as speed-camera systems have done for speeding on streets near the schools in our community.

Automated enforcement of truck exclusion seems an ideal solution to this problem – guaranteed enforcement will motivate the drivers (and their employers) to figure out other, legal, routes to transit through town, which will improve the quality of life of residents and additionally reduce the street maintenance budgets of the town.

The Town would be very appreciative of a favorable report from the Law Enforcement Subcommittee on this bill, as would the many impacted residents of the Town of Riverdale Park.

Sincerely,

  
Alan K. Thompson  
Mayor of the Town of Riverdale Park