



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support to repeal and reenact with amendments Article – Transportation Section 21-507c providing authority to law enforcement within Wicomico County to enforce this code.

Dear Senator Carozza:
District 38

As Chief of Police for the City of Salisbury, I am writing you to express my support of SB961 Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitation.

Between the dates of January 6, 2022 and February 18, 2024 the Salisbury Police Department has responded to 234 calls for service related to solicitation for money. Many of these calls involve individuals standing in close proximity to or within active lanes of vehicular traffic and in some cases placing themselves and the vehicle operator in harms way.

In some cases, solicitors are well known to law enforcement, understand there is little enforcement action that can be taken. They are often found to suffer from mental health and have drug addiction issues. They are found to be intoxicated, and act in an aggressive and belligerent manner both towards law enforcement as well as the solicited public leading to further dangerous conditions.

Although sympathetic to the motives for soliciting money in this manner, I believe by redirecting the generosity by donating to local organizations would have a greater impact by providing valuable resources to a greater number of individuals.

Enabling our police officers in Wicomico County with the ability to enforce Title 21-507c of the Maryland Annotated Traffic Code will lead to further deterrence, re-direct resources and result in a safer community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David T. Meienschein".

David T. Meienschein
Chief of Police
City of Salisbury



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