



March 4, 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:

The Council of the City of Salisbury wishes to express 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 harm's way.

In some cases, solicitors are well known to law enforcement and 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, the Council believes that 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.

Sincerely,

D'Shawn M. Doughty  
City of Salisbury Council President

Angela M. Blake  
City of Salisbury Council Vice  
President

April R. Jackson  
City Council member

Michele Gregory  
City Council member

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City Council member

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