

Sheriff



Sheriff Michael A. Lewis
Wicomico County Maryland

401 NAYLOR MILL ROAD, SALISBURY, MD 21801 • 410-548-4891

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Senator Mary Beth Carozza
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Reference: 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:

I am thrilled and pleased to submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 961- Wicomico County Roadway Solicitations. For years, Wicomico County has dealt with the scourge of roadway solicitations, prompting many calls to the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office and other municipal police departments in the county. Many of these calls involve individuals standing near moving traffic, and creating a traffic hazard. In many instances, while stopped at traffic lights, motorists are approached, and in many cases, they are coerced or shamed into donating their hard-earned dollars by solicitors standing in or near the roadway.

Many of these solicitors, well-known to local law enforcement, have been involved in other criminal activity, and in many cases are suffering from drug addiction, and alcoholism, and have acted in a belligerent or aggressive manner towards responding deputies. Enough is enough.

The passage of Senate Bill 961, and enabling Wicomico County Sheriff's Deputies the ability to enforce Title 21-507C of the Maryland Annotated Traffic Code, will hopefully reduce the number of roadway solicitations often seen in Wicomico County. I urge a favorable report on this bill, SB961.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Lewis".

Michael A. Lewis
Sheriff
Wicomico County