

Letter ref SB961.pdf

Uploaded by: Kim Nichols

Position: FAV



City of
Salisbury
Salisbury Police Department

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,

David T. Meienschein
Chief of Police
City of Salisbury



699 W. Salisbury Parkway
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-548-3165
www.salisburypd.com



SalisburyCouncil.pdf

Uploaded by: Kim Nichols

Position: FAV



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.

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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

Sharon C. Dashiell
City Council member

Salisbury City Council
115 S. Division St., Salisbury, MD 21801
410.548.3140
www.salisbury.md

SB961.pdf

Uploaded by: Kim Nichols

Position: FAV



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 City of Salisbury wishes to express support for SB961 Wicomico County-Vehicle Laws-Prohibition on Roadway Solicitation.

Between January 6, 2022, and February 18, 2024, the Salisbury Police Department responded to 234 calls for service related to solicitation for money. Many of these calls involve individuals standing near or within active lanes of vehicular traffic and sometimes 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 toward 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 City believes that redirecting the generosity by donating to local organizations would have a greater impact by providing valuable resources to more 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,

Randolph J. Taylor
Mayor

Mayor's Office
115 S. Division St., Salisbury, MD 21801
410.548.3100
www.salisbury.md

24-0220 L Delegate Korman HB1312-SB961.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Hurley

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

P.O. BOX 870
SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870
410-548-4696
FAX: 410-548-7872

WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL
John T. Cannon, President/At-Large
Jeff Merritt, Vice-President/District #2
James Winn, At-Large
Shanie Shields, District #1
Shane T. Baker, District #3

Josh Hastings, District #4
Joe Holloway, District #5
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

February 20, 2024

Environment and Transportation Committee
Attn.: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1312/Senate Bill 961-Wicomico County-Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations

Dear Honorable Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of House Bill 1312/Senate Bill 961, Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations. The residents of Wicomico County are met with panhandlers on many streets in Salisbury/Wicomico County. The individuals stand in the roadways, in the median divider and at intersections, many with traffic lights, holding signs. They approach vehicles and solicit for money or donations of any amount from the occupants.

Panhandling poses various challenges and risks to both the individuals engaging in it and the community as a whole. It can create an atmosphere of insecurity and discomfort for residents and visitors, discouraging economic activity and negatively impacting local businesses. Furthermore, aggressive panhandling tactics can intimidate and harass passersby, leading to a decline in public safety and a deterioration of the social fabric of our neighborhoods. Prohibiting pan handling on our streets is a proactive step towards addressing these concerns and promoting a more welcoming and secure environment for all members of the community.

It is important to recognize that prohibiting pan handling does not mean turning a blind eye to the underlying issues of poverty and homelessness. By addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing individuals with the support they need to rebuild their lives, we can create lasting positive change in our community.

We appreciate your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Council Office at 410-548-4696.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

Julie M. Giordano, County Executive



John T. Cannon, Council President

cc: Wicomico County Council
Eastern Shore Delegation

SENATE BILL 961

R5

4r2268
CF 4r3105

By: **Senators Carozza and Mautz**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person in Wicomico County from standing in a roadway,
4 median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations from the occupant of a
5 vehicle; and generally relating to roadway solicitations in Wicomico County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Transportation
8 Section 21–507(c)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 21–507.

15 (c) In Carroll County, Charles County, Harford County, [and] Washington
16 County, **AND WICOMICO COUNTY**, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider,
17 or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2024.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



SB 961 - Wicomico Superintendent_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Molly O'Hara

Position: FAV



Micah C. Stauffer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Wicomico County Public Schools

2424 Northgate Drive, Salisbury • P.O. Box 1538, Salisbury, MD 21802-1538 • 410-677-4400

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Carozza,

As Superintendent of Schools for Wicomico County, I am reaching out to express my endorsement of SB961, the Wicomico County-Vehicle Laws - Prohibition on Roadway Solicitation.

Throughout the period from January 6, 2022, to February 18, 2024, our community has been impacted by 234 incidents requiring attention related to solicitation for funds. It has become apparent that many of these individuals are known to law enforcement, and unfortunately, the avenues for enforcement action are limited. A significant number of these instances involve individuals positioning themselves in close proximity to or within active traffic lanes, placing both themselves and drivers at risk. The solicitation of funds by individuals creates the potential for hazardous conditions for drivers, including our own bus drivers.

While recognizing the compassionate intentions behind their actions, I firmly believe that channeling generosity towards local organizations would yield more impactful results, providing vital assistance to a broader spectrum of individuals in need.

Empowering our law enforcement officers in Wicomico County with the capacity to enforce Title 21-507c of the Maryland Annotated Traffic Code will undoubtedly serve as a deterrent, reallocate resources effectively, and contribute to fostering a safer environment for our community.

Your support of SB961 is crucial in ensuring the well-being and security of our residents. Together, we can enact positive change and uphold the safety standards of our county.

Sincerely,

Micah C. Stauffer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

www.wicomicoschools.org

SB 961 - Carozza Testimony_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2024

The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**SB 961 – Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway
Solicitations**

Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the distinguished Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 961 – Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations.

This local, enabling legislation would prohibit a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle within Wicomico County. Senate Bill 961 is modeled after other local enabling bills that already have passed and are in effect in Carroll, Charles, Harford, and Washington counties (Transportation Article 21-507 (c).)

Solicitations in roadways pose various challenges and risks to the individuals engaging in this activity, the drivers on the road, the responding officers, and the surrounding community. Since January of 2022, the Salisbury Police Department has responded to 234 calls for service related to money solicitation, and almost all of these calls involved individuals standing too close or directly in active lanes of vehicular traffic. There have been instances where the solicitors placed themselves directly in front of an oncoming vehicle, and situations where students are placing themselves in danger by fundraising from the median strip.

Roadway solicitations have become an increasing public safety concern in Wicomico County, and prohibiting this action would allow our public safety officers to protect the public and assist those individuals who may need service due to poverty and homelessness.

This local bill is supported by Wicomico Public Schools, the Wicomico County Council, the Salisbury Police Department and Wicomico Sheriff's Office, and the City of Salisbury.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and very swift report on SB 961.

SB 961 - Senate Delegation Support Letter.PDF

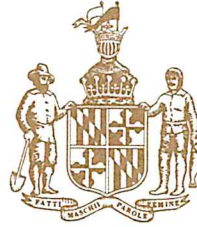
Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



Annapolis Office
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MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Will Smith
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith,

The Wicomico County Delegation supports Senate Bill 961 – Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations. I thank you for your committee’s consideration of this bill and request a favorable report.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Carozza".

MARY BETH CAROZZA
State Senator – District 38
Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Mautz".

JOHNNY MAUTZ
State Senator – District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico

SB 961 Wicomico Co Prohibition on Roadway Solicita

Uploaded by: Sheriff Michael Lewis

Position: FAV

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