



January 6, 2025

The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza
District 38
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, MD. 21401

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

Dear Senator Carozza:

As the Chief of Police for the City of Salisbury, I am writing you to express my support of SB 101 Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitation. Between the dates of January 6, 2022 and January 6, 2024 the Salisbury Police Department has responded to 337 police calls for service related to persons in public spaces, i.e. high traffic intersections, ingress and egress of shopping centers, tunnels, and underpasses. In some instances, the solicitors are standing close to the traveled roadway and step into active traffic lanes to solicit and accept currency and other items thus placing themselves and motorists at risk of being involved in a traffic accident.

Additionally, in some calls for service solicitors are reported to act aggressively towards motorists and police officers and often found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Although I am sympathetic to the circumstances that have led individuals to solicit in this manner, I believe that redirecting the public's generosity to local organizations would have a greater positive impact and provide additional resources to more individuals.

It would be our goal to issue these citations as an exemption and not normal practice, essentially used when other measures fail. It would also allow further ability of officers to contact solicitors, offer additional resources, and engage with our mental health co-responder team when appropriate.

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

David T. Meienschein
Chief of Police



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Salisbury
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