

Support letter SB 101 Roadway Solicitations.pdf

Uploaded by: Bunky Luffman

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

P.O. BOX 870

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Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

Matt Leitzel
Assistant Director of Administration

Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

January 3, 2025

The Honorable Marybeth Carozza
316 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Carozza:

On behalf of Wicomico County, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 101 – Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations. This bill, a reintroduction of SB 961 from 2024, seeks to add Wicomico County to the list of jurisdictions included in Transportation Article 21-507(c) of the Maryland Code. This provision prohibits individuals from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations from vehicle occupants in Carroll, Charles, Harford, and Washington counties.

Roadway solicitations have become an increasing concern in Wicomico County, posing safety risks to both pedestrians and motorists. This legislation would provide local law enforcement with the necessary authority to address this growing issue effectively, thereby improving public safety and reducing traffic hazards. The law has proven effective in the four counties where it is already in place, and extending this prohibition to Wicomico County is a logical and much-needed step.

It is important to emphasize that SB 101 does not seek to criminalize individuals who are soliciting donations or engaging in other lawful activities. Rather, it is designed to enhance safety for all roadway users by ensuring that solicitation activities do not take place in areas where they could lead to accidents or disrupt the flow of traffic.

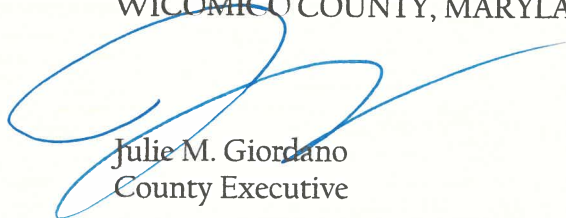
Wicomico County is committed to fostering a safe and accessible environment for its residents and visitors. I firmly believe that this legislation aligns with that commitment and will make a meaningful difference in our community. I respectfully urge your support for SB 101 and look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

January 3, 2025
Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



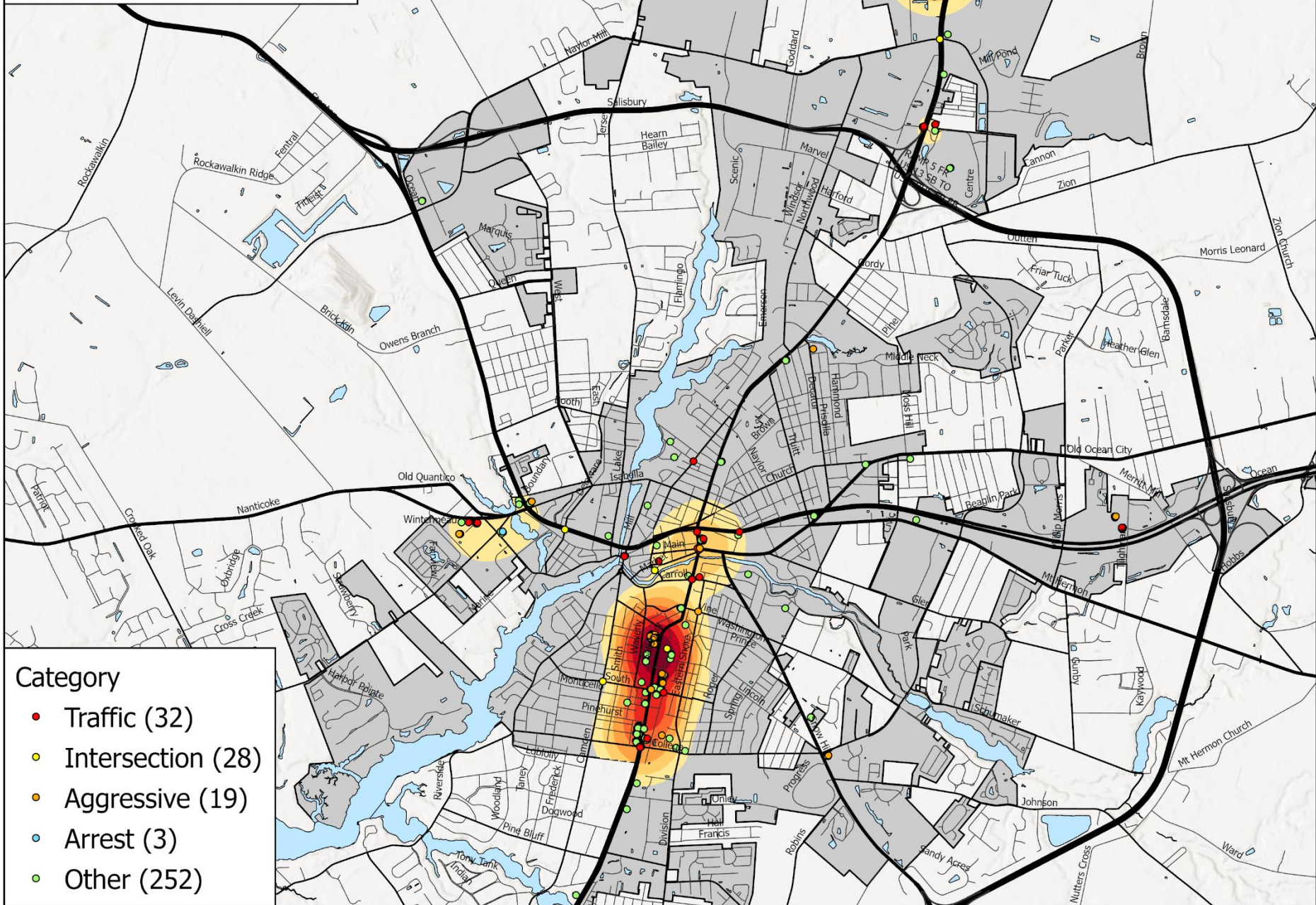
Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

PanhandlingMaps.pdf

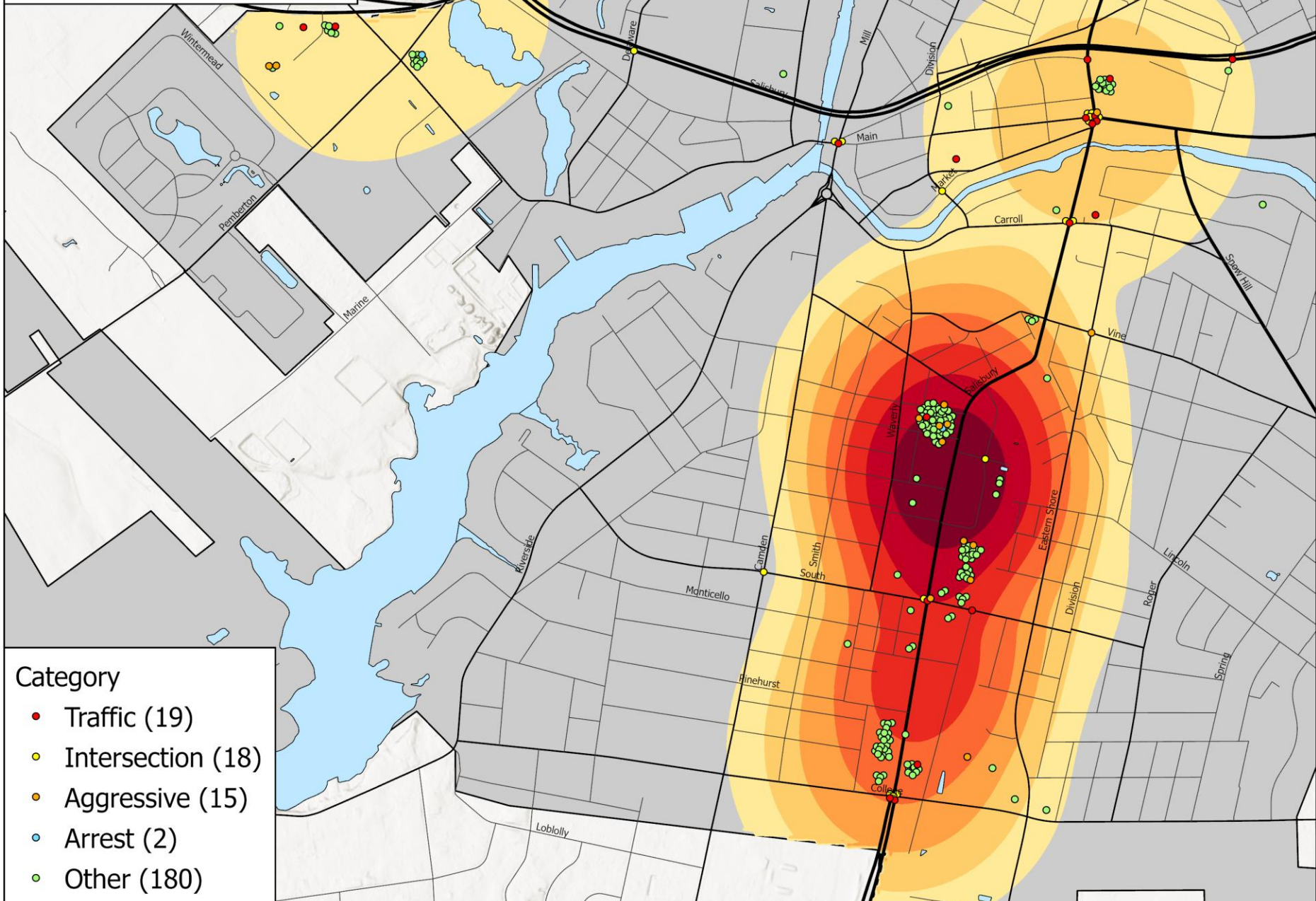
Uploaded by: David Meienschein

Position: FAV

Panhandling Heatmap 1/6/22 - 1/6/25



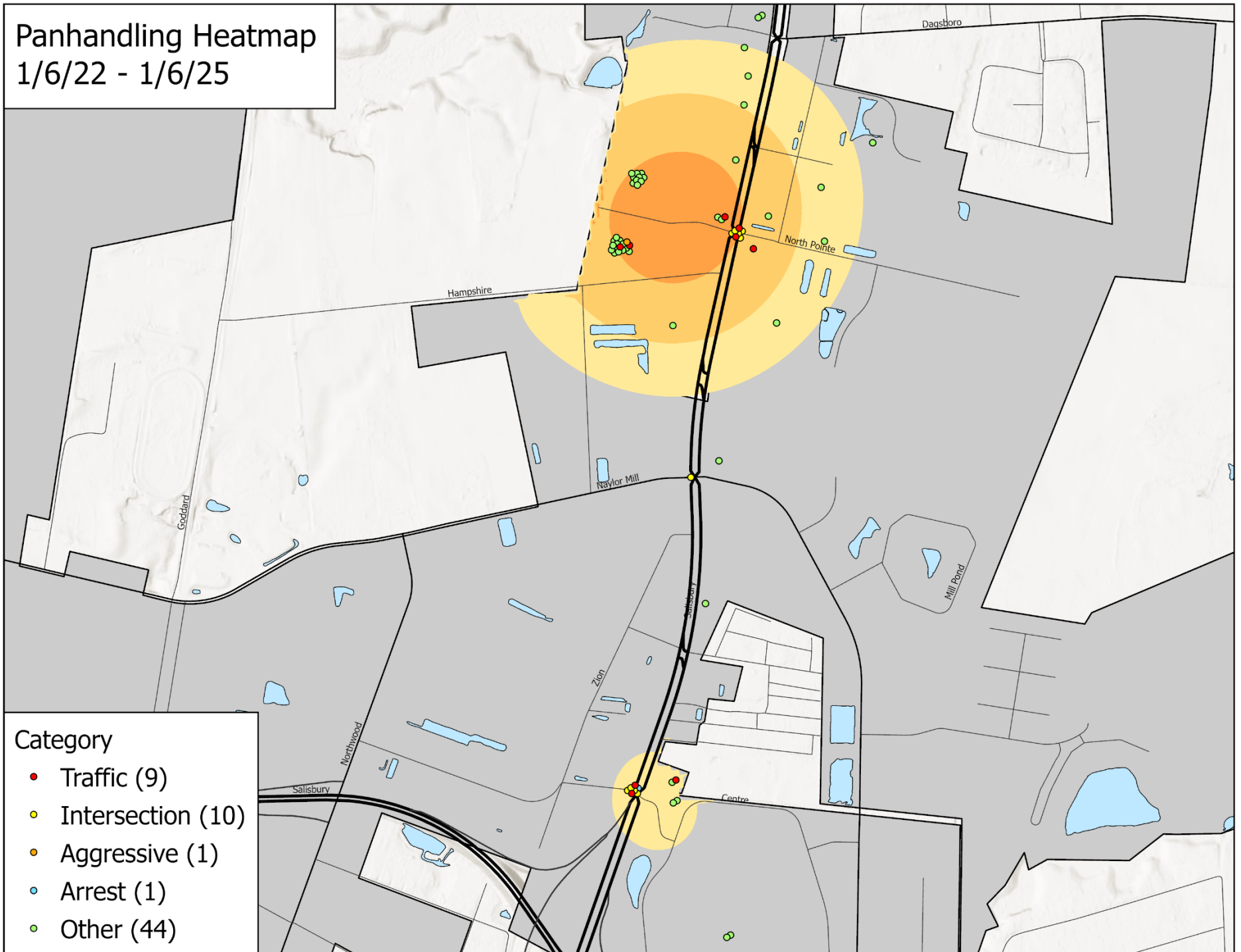
Panhandling Heatmap 1/6/22 - 1/6/25



Category

- Traffic (19)
- Intersection (18)
- Aggressive (15)
- Arrest (2)
- Other (180)

Panhandling Heatmap 1/6/22 - 1/6/25



Biggest problem spots:

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Panhandling Calls</i> |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Wawa</i> | 57 |
| <i>Waverly Shopping Center</i> | 37 |
| <i>Clairmont Shopping Center</i> | 27 |
| <i>Sam's Club</i> | 16 |
| <i>College & Rt 13/Royal Farms</i> | 15 |
| <i>Downtown Royal Farms</i> | 14 |
| <i>Pecan Square</i> | 12 |
| <i>North Pointe @ Rt 13</i> | 12 |
| <i>E Main St Tunnel</i> | 11 |
| <i>Mall Entrance @ Rt 13</i> | 11 |
| <i>Pemberton Royal Farms</i> | 10 |
| <i>Wal Mart</i> | 10 |

+ Calls that referenced impeding traffic: 32

+ Calls that *either* referenced impeding traffic, or occurred at an intersection: 60

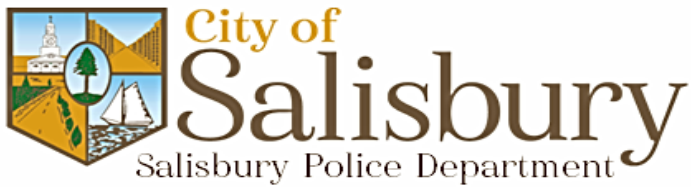
+ Calls that referenced aggression from the panhandler: 20

+ Calls that specifically referenced to violence perpetrated by a panhandler: 1 – Occurred at Pecan Square on 2/2/2022, panhandler pushed a business owner who requested that he leave the parking lot. Left without incident upon officer arrival.

SPD Letter of Support (1) 21-507c.pdf

Uploaded by: David Meienschein

Position: FAV



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, MD 21801
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City of
Salisbury
Salisbury Police Department



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SB101 Wicomico County-Vehicle Laws

Uploaded by: Edwin Lashley

Position: FAV



Make Tomorrow Yours

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Salisbury, MD 21801
410-543-6000
TTY 410-543-6083
www.salisbury.edu

January 8, 2025

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

Dear Senator Carozza,

As the Chief of Police at Salisbury University, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 101, which seeks to prohibit individuals in Wicomico County from standing in roadways, median dividers, or intersections to solicit money or donations from vehicle occupants. This legislation is crucial for enhancing public safety, particularly in areas surrounding our university campus.

High-traffic areas near the University have become common sites for roadway solicitation. Individuals engaging in this practice often come into close contact with students commuting to and from campus. This proximity raises significant safety concerns, including traffic hazards, whereby solicitors standing in or near roadways can distract drivers and inadvertently cause accidents. The presence of pedestrians in the roadways soliciting money in these areas increases the risk of vehicle-pedestrian collisions, endangering both solicitors and motorists.

The personal safety of our students is our number one priority. Students may feel uncomfortable or threatened when approached by solicitors, especially during evening hours. This can lead to avoidance behaviors, such as taking longer routes, which may expose them to other risks.

Senate Bill 101 aligns Wicomico County with other Maryland counties that have implemented similar measures to protect public safety. This legislation will help reduce the potential for accidents and enhance the overall security of our community.

I ask the Senate to give favorable consideration to Senate Bill 101. Enacting this bill will contribute to the safety and well-being of Salisbury University students and the broader Wicomico County community.

Sincerely,

Edwin Lashley
Chief of Police

SB 101 - 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

Executive Nominations Committee



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MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 9, 2025

The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**SB 101 – 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 101 – 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 101 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 337 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.

It is important to note that SB 101 does not criminalize individuals who are soliciting donations, but instead is fully intended to increase public safety by ensuring that solicitation activities are not conducted in areas where it could be dangerous. 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 assistance due to poverty and homelessness.

This local bill is supported by Wicomico Public Schools, the Wicomico County Council, the Wicomico County Executive, 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 101.

SB 101 - Senate Delegation Letter_Support.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



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 7, 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 101 – 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,

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

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

SB101 Wocp,ocp Cpimtu Delegation

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



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 7, 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 101 – 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