

August 11, 2016

Trespass Towing Advisory Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Ms. Iacomini:

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the Trespass Towing Advisory Board (TTAB) to reject proposed changes to the County's Trespass Towing Ordinance.

As stated in our Public Policy Positions, the Chamber opposes any effort that would impede property owners from safely managing the parking on their property. In Arlington, where space is at a premium, responsible parking management is a vital component of private property rights. Proposals raised at the TTAB's July 14 meeting to require a second signature to authorize removal of illegally parked vehicles and to prohibit the use of "spotters" to monitor parking areas run contrary to this basic tenet and would counteract recent efforts by the County to make Arlington more business-friendly.

Both proposals present significant administrative burdens to implement that would increase costs and deteriorate the level of service provided by towing contractors. This would directly impact local businesses who must keep parking areas clear and available to their employees, visitors and customers to remain financially viable. In many cases, businesses actually pay rent for reserved parking spaces. Not surprisingly, those business tenants demand that property management keep spaces clear at all times for their designated use. Requiring a "second signature" or restricting the ability to closely monitor those facilities diminishes the ability of property managers to regulate parking on their properties and remove trespassing vehicles. Furthermore, complying with such a stringent requirement may necessitate the hiring of additional staff at significant expense in order to monitor the property twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

The Chamber strongly urges you to reject the proposed changes to the County's Trespass Towing Ordinance to continue to build on recent improvements in the County's overall business and regulatory climate.

Sincerely,



Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members Libby Garvey, Jay Fiset, John Vihstadt, Katie Cristol, Christian Dorsey and County Manager Mark Schwartz

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