

November 4, 2016

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chairman Garvey:

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce offers our support for the Trespass Towing Advisory Board (TTAB)'s comprehensive recommended updates to the Arlington County Code. We encourage the Board to adopt this proposal and again, emphasize our vehement opposition to the addition of a second signature requirement for the removal of illegally parked vehicles or the prohibition of parking "spotters" to monitor parking areas. The addition of either would present significant administrative and cost burdens to implement and would deteriorate the level of service provided by towing contractors to local businesses who must keep parking areas clear and available to their employees, visitors and customers to remain financially viable. We appreciate the steps the County has been working towards to make Arlington a more business friendly community, and urge extreme caution to the Board in exploring proposals that would shift things in the opposite direction.

The current TTAB draft represents a compromise from all stakeholders. Over the course of the process, there has been ample opportunity for input from the businesses, citizens and public safety personnel impacted by any changes. The key points of the draft were supported by a large majority of the TTAB members, including the Arlington County Police Department representatives, who each voted against the addition of a second signature requirement.

As you're aware, the Chamber represents approximately 700 businesses in a variety of sectors. A second signature requirement would have a significant negative impact as well as a significant cost to our retailers, property owners and the towers themselves, as we articulated in our August 11 letter.

We commend the work of the TTAB in producing this draft and appreciate their consideration of the Chamber's input throughout the process. While we had serious concerns about the direction of the TTAB's work in August given the direction of the meetings to that point, we are appreciative of the work that has taken place since then to get us to the current recommendations, and appreciate the opportunity for the Chamber to weigh in throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Kate Bates
President & CEO

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