

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



November 23, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Garvey:

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes the addition of a second signature requirement for the removal of illegally parked vehicles from private property. The proposed amendment that was added to the RTA causes 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. As stated in our November 4 letter, 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 such as this one that would shift things in the opposite direction.

Limiting the hours for the second signature requirement to "normal business hours of the owner of the property from which the vehicle is being towed" does not alleviate the burden from the businesses. Requiring a sign off from an employee, whether physical or electronically, pulls them away from their regular responsibilities unnecessarily.

Moreover, the proposed requirement is unwarranted as reflected in the County's own data regarding trespass tows. As articulated in our previous letters, testimony at the November Board Meeting and additional conversations, there is no evidence of towing problem in Arlington. We're all aware that our County has a scarcity of land and as a result a scarcity of parking. However, that does not provide justification for micromanaging anyone (business or resident)'s protection of their property from illegally parked vehicles.

The TTAB draft represented a compromise from all stakeholders. Over the course of the process, there was ample 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. It is alarming to work through that process and then for drastic amendments be taken without significant justification beyond anecdotal complaints and an overall sentiment that people don't like towing companies.

We urge the Board to adopt the TTAB's draft recommendation without alteration, with a vehement opposition to the addition of second signature language.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kate Bates
President & CEO

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