



December 12, 2024

Chair Libby Garvey  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Garvey,

The Arlington Chamber requests that the County Board adopt Item 28 on the County Board agenda, the proposed towing ordinance, as recommended by County Staff. We appreciate that the proposed towing ordinance does not include language regarding a second signature requirement for towing illegally parked vehicles, which the Chamber and a number of our member businesses requested to be removed due to major safety and operational concerns.

A second signature requirement could expose employees of Arlington businesses to safety risks from interactions with people who are upset about towing situations, increasing the likelihood of property and business staff receiving hostile responses or harassment. The requirement would require designated employees to leave their regular duties to address every towing situation during business hours, hindering regular operations.

The Trespass Towing Advisory Board (TTAB) voted against inclusion of a second signature requirement when reviewing the draft ordinance in October, citing safety concerns. And the safety concerns are in alignment with those raised by property owners and businesses in the last several weeks.

The Chamber also recognizes that the implementation period of the towing ordinance in March 2025 will be significant for towing operators and for property owners alike. The Chamber is ready to collaborate with the County and convene dialogue with stakeholders on implementation to ensure a straightforward transition into the new regulatory framework.

We appreciate the continued conversations on this important matter, and we thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates  
President & CEO

CC: County Board Vice-Chair Takis Karantonis; County Board Members Maureen Coffey, Susan Cunningham, and Matt de Ferranti; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Deputy County Manager Aaron Miller; Acting Director of Constituent Services and Business Ombuds Katelyn Thomas.