

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING ON TRESPASS VEHICLE TOWING
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

The Advisory Board on Trespass Vehicle Towing met on February 16, 2010 in the Arlington County Government offices at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Conference Room 311.

The meeting was attended by: Ms. Nancy Iacomini (voting member), Captain Brian Gough (voting member), Sergeant Matt Lafley (voting member), Detective Matthew Owens (voting member), Mr. John O'Neill (voting member), Mr. Al Leach (voting member), Mr. Charles Clohan (non-voting member), Ms. Susan Anderson (non-voting member), Ms. Stacy Ehrlich (non-voting member), Mr. Bruce MacQueen (non-voting member) and Mr. Ralph Wilcher (non-voting member). The meeting was also attended by several members of the public, representatives from A-1 Towing and East Coast Towing Services.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the staff coordinator, who thanked the members for agreeing to serve on the Advisory Board. Guests were advised that this was a public meeting but not a public hearing and only Advisory Board members were allowed to participate in the discussion. The minutes from the last meeting of the Advisory Board were reviewed and the members were briefed on County Board action on towing ordinance amendments in 2009. The staff coordinator also provided the tentative timeline for County Board consideration of any amendments recommended by the Advisory Board and the Charge and Scope of the Advisory Board was reviewed.

The first order of business was the election of a Chairperson as required by Code of Virginia 46.2-1233.2. Nancy Iacomini and Detective Owens were nominated for the position, and Ms. Iacomini was elected Chair by a vote of 5-1.

Ms. Iacomini opened the floor for discussion of any topics of interest. Detective Owens provided a summary of the towing complaints investigated by the Police Department in the last year. Several members discussed this data.

The Advisory Board then moved to consideration of ordinance amendments. Ms. Iacomini moved to amend Section 14.3-5 regarding signage requirements in parking lots that are shared by multiple businesses. The amendment would have provided for a new section 14.3-5(2) which would have read, "*In the instance of properties where the parking lot serves multiple tenants and individual parking spaces are reserved only for patrons or residents of one tenant and are not open to patrons or residents of all tenants served by the parking lot, additional signs must be used to delineate which spaces correspond to each tenant.*" Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn and it was recommended that the County examine the financial and personnel costs necessary to enact such a requirement.

Mr. O'Neill moved to amend Section 14.3-9 to increase the maximum base tow fee from the current rate of \$115.00 to \$125.00. Following discussion, the amendment was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Leach moved to amend Section 14.3-7 regarding the location of storage facilities. Under the current ordinance, any vehicle towed from Arlington County must be towed to a facility located within Arlington County or within three miles of the boundary line. Mr. Leach requested an increase in that limit to a distance greater than three miles. Following discussion, the amendment was withdrawn.

Ms. Iacomini then raised the issue of getting a "second signature" requirement. Such a requirement would require the owner of the property, or their agent, to be physically present and authorize the towing of a trespassing vehicle on their lot. After substantial discussion, no motion was made on this issue.

Ms. Iacomini asked for any additional motions, and none were offered. The meeting was adjourned.