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Joint Board Matter

Chairman McKay

Supervisor Gross

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The proliferation of signs in the right-of-way has been a community-wide issue for many years. To address this issue, the County entered into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The agreement permitted the community labor force, under the direction of the Sheriff's Department, to pick up signs in the 100 roads designated within the "Signs in the Right of Way" (ROW) program. To date, this has been a successful program and partnership. However, we have been informed by Sheriff Kincaid that, as of September 12, 2022, the community labor force will no longer be available to assist in this critical program.

Therefore, I move that the Board direct the County Executive to explore other options by which these signs can be removed in a timely, regular, and safe manner. An option for potential review could include the expansion of other innovative programs in the County such as the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' (DPWES) Operation Stream Shield (OSS). This program utilizes three non-profit partners who, through the County's stormwater tax, pay residents who are experiencing homelessness or have chronic issues impacting

their return to work to do litter cleanup and remove invasive species on County-owned and Park Authority property. Another option would be to utilize county employees and vehicles to perform the sign removal and disposal.

The County Executive should provide these options, including any resource or cost implications to the Board along with a timeline of implementation, to prevent a significant gap in our ability to remove signs from the right-of-way.