

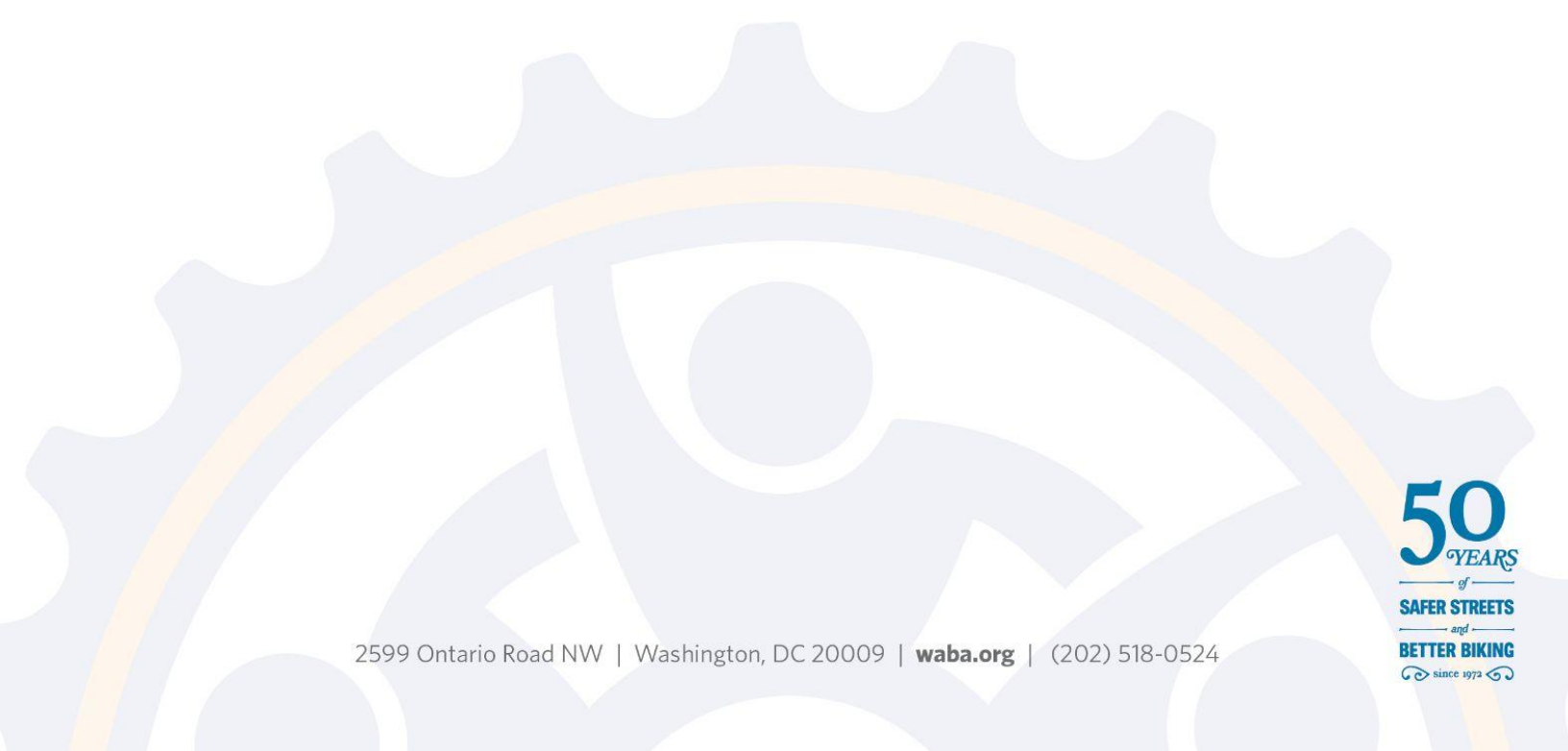
Montgomery County Council  
[county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Dear County Council Members,

WABA understands that the Council felt it had to deal with the messy situation with the Planning Board, especially the unprincipled actions of four of the Board members firing the Planning Department Director Gwen Wright three months before her planned retirement. While we do not feel firing Chair Anderson was justified due to his violation of County liquor policies (for which he was penalized by docking his pay), we understand that the Council wanted to send a strong signal to the public about the integrity of the Board.

We strongly urge the Council to put in place, both for the interim and permanent Board positions it will fill, candidates that will maintain the overall direction of the Board that was championed by Chair Anderson. This includes strong support for active transportation as embodied in the award winning Bicycle Master plan the Council passed in 2018, the emerging Pedestrian Master Plan, and the (hopefully) imminent passage of Thrive 2050. Shaping development that encourages smart growth, alternatives to cars and Vision Zero are all policies the Planning Board has supported over the 11 year tenure of Chair Anderson and the vacant positions should be filled by candidates who will continue those policies.

Peter Gray  
Maryland Organizer



2599 Ontario Road NW | Washington, DC 20009 | [waba.org](http://waba.org) | (202) 518-0524

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