

TOWN OF HERNDON

Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HERNDON MAYOR VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHT TO REDUCE DANGER
REPRESENTED BY DRIVERS WITHOUT OPERATOR'S LICENSES**
HB2021 Does Not Make it Out of Senate Subcommittee

Herndon, VA (February 23, 2009) – HB2021, a bill sponsored by Virginia Delegate Thomas Davis Rust that, if passed into law, would have resulted in impoundment of motor vehicles on second or subsequent offenses for those driving without valid operator's licenses, did not make it out of a special subcommittee of the State Senate Courts of Justice committee and will not be considered further during the 2009 General Assembly legislative session. Earlier in the session, the bill had passed through the House of Delegates with strong bipartisan support and by a vote of 88 (for) to nine (against).

Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, a champion of the bill who had traveled to Richmond extensively throughout the 2009 legislative session to personally lobby lawmakers, expressed disappointment at the outcome but is already mobilizing resources to resurrect the effort for the General Assembly's 2010 legislative session. "Driving without a valid operator's license is a serious safety risk to all Virginians," DeBenedittis said. "We need legislation that will reduce this dangerous, illegal behavior and make our roads safer."

DeBenedittis said he intends to capitalize on the many contacts he made during the 2009 legislative session to build grassroots, widespread support for next year's effort. "Clearly, there was enough support for the bill to validate its importance and to bring it back next year," he said.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 23,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 25,000 people. *Business Week* Magazine has named Herndon one of the nation's "Best Affordable Suburbs."

For more information, visit the town's Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

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