



Town of Bladensburg, Maryland
RESOLUTION NO. 01 - 2025

Date Introduced: July 15, 2024

Date Adopted: July 15, 2024

Date Effective: July 15, 2024

Town of Bladensburg Resolution of Support for the Bladensburg Fire Department and other Volunteer Fire Departments throughout Prince George's County

Whereas, the Port Towns, represented by their respective mayors, acknowledge and support the concerns raised by Chief Dave Sumner and the Volunteer Fire Departments in our area regarding the critical shortage of career staffing in our local firehouses;

Whereas, the current staffing crisis severely impacts the ability of fire departments in Bladensburg, Cottage City, and other volunteer fire departments to deliver essential emergency services to our communities;

Whereas, the shortage of career personnel places significant strain on our volunteer firefighters and compromises the health and safety of our residents;

Whereas, our volunteer firefighters have faithfully served our communities for over a century, yet increasing demands and new training standards have become unmanageable without adequate support, resulting in delayed response times, increased EMS call volumes, and reduced effectiveness in emergency service delivery;

Whereas, the Port Towns have consistently supported our volunteer organizations, recognizing the invaluable contributions they make to Prince George's County through their volunteer work;

Whereas, the County Fire Department has made some changes and is willing to meet mayors and staff over the past few weeks to discuss these urgent matters, signaling a shared commitment to finding viable solutions;

Whereas, immediate action by the County is urgently needed to address the current staffing shortfall, ensuring that our firehouses are adequately staffed with career personnel to maintain the high standard of public safety expected and deserved by our residents;

Whereas, our communities heavily rely on the dedicated service of both career and volunteer firefighters, and without sufficient career staffing, the burden on our volunteers becomes unsustainable, leading to fatigue, health issues, and diminished morale, ultimately jeopardizing the safety of our residents;

Resolved, that the Town of Bladensburg, in solidarity with Chief Dave Sumner and the Volunteer Fire Departments, calls upon Prince George's County to take immediate and decisive action to address the staffing crisis affecting our fire departments;

Resolved, that the Town of Bladensburg urges the County to prioritize and implement measures that ensure our fire departments can operate effectively, safeguarding our communities and providing essential public safety services;

Resolved, that the Town of Bladensburg stands united with Chief Sumner and our volunteer firefighters in their plea for the County to commit to sustainable solutions that uphold public safety standards across Prince George's County.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Prince George's County Executive, County Council, and relevant County officials to convey the urgent need for action and solidarity in support of our fire departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be and is hereby adopted this ___ Day of July 2024 and shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Attest:

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth
Town Administrator/ Acting Town Clerk

Takisha D. James, Mayor