



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: July 15, 2024	Submitted by: Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator
Item Title: Resolution 01-2025: Town of Bladensburg Resolution of Support for the Bladensburg Fire Department and other Volunteer Fire Departments throughout Prince George's County	
Resolution 01-2025: <i>Town of Bladensburg Resolution of Support for the Bladensburg Fire Department and other Volunteer Fire Departments throughout Prince George's County</i>	
Work Session Item [X] Council Meeting Item [X]	Documentation Attached: Resolution
Recommended Action: Staff recommends the passage of this support resolution.	
Item Summary: This is a resolution of support that will be submitted to 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. Here are the key points of the Town of Bladensburg Resolution of Support for the Bladensburg Fire Department and other Volunteer Fire Departments throughout Prince George's County: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of Staffing Concerns: The department recognizes and supports the concerns raised by Chief Dave Sumner and Volunteer Fire Departments regarding critical shortages of career staffing in local firehouses.• Impact of Staffing Crisis: Highlights that the current staffing crisis severely affects the ability of fire departments (including Bladensburg, Cottage City, and others) to deliver essential emergency services, compromising community safety.• Strain on Volunteer Firefighters: Notes that the shortage of career personnel places significant strain on volunteer firefighters and jeopardizes the health and safety of residents.• Historical Service and Increasing Demands: The Town acknowledges the longstanding service of volunteer firefighters but emphasizes that increasing demands and new training standards are unsustainable without adequate support, leading to delayed responses and reduced effectiveness.• Community Support for Volunteers: Affirms consistent support for volunteer organizations, recognizing their invaluable contributions to Prince George's County.• Urgency for Action: Prince George's County calls for immediate action to address the staffing shortfall and ensure firehouses are adequately staffed with career personnel to maintain high public safety standards.• Impact on Community Safety: Emphasizes that insufficient career staffing burdens volunteers, leading to fatigue, health issues, and diminished morale, ultimately compromising community safety.	
Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [] NA Budgeted Amount: One-Time Cost: NA Ongoing Cost: NA	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes [] No []	Approved Date: