

COALITION TO SUPPORT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE AND EMS

Dear Esteemed Candidate for Prince George's County Executive,

We are all intimately familiar with the staffing shortages of the Prince George's County Fire Department and the resulting reallocation of career firefighters away from the communities they serve. A combination of foreseeable circumstances led to this emergency, which resulted in longer response times and multiple deaths. It doesn't have to be this way.

We, the undersigned, believe it is a core responsibility of the incoming County Executive to address these deficiencies in the Prince George's County Fire Department with urgency and determination. Safeguarding our residents is a foundational responsibility of government, and we urge every candidate to read and respond to the recommendations listed below.

Your commitment to these recommendations will show your commitment to all of Prince George's County and the many lives that call it home. Thank you for your dedication to public service and thank you for your response. We wish you the best this election season.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Support Fire and EMS in Prince George's County

Councilmember Danielle Carter Miller, City of Mount Rainier

Former Vice Mayor Stefan Leggin, Town of Brentwood

The Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS includes a diverse collection of stakeholders including municipal leaders, career personnel, volunteer personnel and residents of Prince George's County. We believe it is a core responsibility of the incoming County Executive to address the deficiencies in the Prince George's County Fire Department with urgency and determination. Our recommendations are as follows:

Reduce Barriers to Volunteerism

Expand virtual training and in-person classes

Shorten onboarding by reducing unnecessary requirements

Commitment to Expedited, Large Scale Recruitment

Funding to hire 150 new Fire/EMS personnel in FY2026

A regional approach to youth recruitment in partnership with local schools and volunteer companies

Incentivize volunteers with stipends and relaxed requirements for retirement

Streamline and consolidate recruitment, training, and reciprocity process

Critically reexamine Fire Academy recruitment process and requirements

Renegotiate single role EMS services

Create EMS-only positions for career employees

Improved Data Transparency

Comprehensive data sharing and analysis including call times, budgets, staffing

Regular meetings which include all 27 municipalities at the table

Facility Support for Volunteer Properties and Apparatus

Return to funding volunteer stations via station management equality

Establish a Task Force for Efficiency and Recruitment

Develop and implement a sustainable staffing plan for career and volunteer staff

Hire an independent auditor