

Prince George's County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Cranford-Graves Fire Services Building 6820 Webster Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784

December 29, 2023

Tiffany Green, Fire Chief Prince George's County Fire & EMS Department 9201 Basil Court, Suite 452 Largo, MD 20774

Chief Green,

I am writing to you today so there can be no question where the Prince Georges County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association stands on the new version of General Order 05-19. In the recent past there has been some confusion as to where I, as President, and the PGCVFRA stand on this General Order as well as other topic of discussion.

The PGCVFRA and I, as President, are now and always have been absolutely opposed to the new version of General Order 05-19, set to be implemented on July 1, 2024, which sets a new revenue split at 20% for Driver affiliation, 20% for Aid Provider affiliation, 20% for Ownership of Vehicle, 20% for EMS Operations, and 20% for Fuel, Maintenance and Insurance; and Section III.A.2.2.b.i restricting the use of funds from Ambulance Billing. We believe that the newest version of General Order 05-19 that creates a 5x20% revenue split and Section III.A.2.2.b.i which states that only debts incurred as of October 1, 2023, can be used for apparatus purchase by revenue from Ambulance Billing is just another action being forced on us by the Fire Chief simply because you can do so without regard for our concerns. We believe that 20% is an extremely high amount for EMS operations. Especially upsetting is the fact that in the new 20% for EMS Operations monies will be used to purchase ALS supplies and ALS equipment with monies earned by the Volunteers BLS units and the Volunteers themselves while we know that the PGFD can and does bill for ALS.

Above I used the line confusion as to where we stood on this and other topics of discussion when I spoke before the County Council, because the County Executive's Administrative Assistant said that I, and then President Jeramie Jordan, were in the room when the discussions had taken place inferring we gave our consent to the changes. Nothing could be further from the truth. Then President Jordan stated that this was a good start to the discussions, not that we gave our consent to the changes. We believe that this General Order takes away money from the Volunteers and our ability to spend monies from this to buy apparatus; thereby, narrowing the parameters of this order to the sole benefit of the Chief.

In conclusion, let me say that I am highly offended by the inference that I somehow misrepresented myself in testimony before the County Council. That aside, let this serve as my and PGCVFRA's public opposition to the new version of General Order 05-19.

Respectfully,

Lee A. Lutz, President

Prince George's County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

cc: The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks

Prince George's County Executive

The Honorable Jolene Ivy, Chair Prince George's County Council