

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 41 -2011

WHEREAS, the County has a Fire Commission charged with reviewing the financial needs and requests for public funds of each volunteer fire company in the County, and formulating annually one capital budget, one capital improvement program, and one current expense budget for all volunteer fire companies with respect to the expenditure of public funds; and

WHEREAS, the method for selection of the membership on the Fire Commission was established in 1970; and

WHEREAS, the nature and extent of fire and emergency medical services provided has changed substantially since the establishment of the Fire Commission; and

WHEREAS, the method and amount of funding by the State for fire and emergency medical services has changed substantially since the establishment of the Fire Commission; and

WHEREAS, a change in the structure and membership composition of the Fire Commission would result in better representation of the interest of the general public in the provision of fire and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, combining the Fire/EMS Department operating expenses into a singular budget would result in improved efficiency, accountability, and transparency; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has determined that a change in the structure and membership composition of the Fire Commission would better serve the residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, Section 503 of the Prince George's County Charter provides that the County Executive may propose changes to the organization for the Executive branch, including the establishment or abolition of agencies, and the assignment of functions, powers and duties among agencies, which proposals shall be set forth in Executive Orders in statutory form and be submitted to the County Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

SECTION 1. The Schedule of Legislation of the Charter for Prince George's County, Maryland, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATION

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Section 13. Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department.

There shall be a Fire/Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") Department headed by a Fire Chief. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire and rescue communications, research and training activities, and coordination of the volunteer fire companies. The Fire Chief shall have had at least five years administrative experience in the field of fire prevention, fire training, or fire suppression. There shall be a Fire Commission composed of nine [members elected by the volunteer fire companies of Prince George's County. Each company shall be entitled to cast one vote for each member of the Commission. The first election shall take place in the month of December, 1970, and an election shall take place annually thereafter during the month of July.] citizens of the County, appointed as provided in Section 504 of this Charter. [The Fire Commission shall review the financial needs and requests for public funds of each volunteer fire company. It shall formulate annually one capital budget, one capital improvement program, and one current expense budget for all volunteer fire companies with respect to the expenditure of public funds, and shall submit said budgets and program, together with appropriate justification, to the County Executive in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.]

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