



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Fire/EMS Department Headquarters

Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

Office of the Fire Chief

June 7, 2024

Ms. Takisha James  
Mayor, Town of Bladensburg  
4229 Edmonston Road  
Bladensburg, Maryland 20710

Dear Mayor James,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me to discuss the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department's summer staffing updates.

As you know, the Fire/EMS Department faces a critical staff shortage that is exacerbated by scheduled vacation leave, which peaks between May and September each year, as well as unscheduled leave such as sick callouts, injuries, and FMLA. Mandatory overtime, such as holdovers and callbacks, has become extreme, creating concern for personnel's health, safety, and wellness. In calendar year 2023, firefighters were required to work a total of 45,601 hours of mandatory overtime, compared to just over 20,000 hours in 2021. Over 47% of those mandatory overtime hours, or 21,484 hours total, were worked during peak leave season. Not only is this detrimental to the health and wellbeing of our Department's career firefighters, it is extremely costly.

While 53 new firefighters started with the Department on Monday, June 3, 2024, and the Department received approval to hire 150 more firefighters in Fiscal Year 2025, a temporary summer staffing reallocation was needed to relieve some of the burden on our firefighters during the summer months.

An analysis was conducted to identify stations eligible to reallocate career personnel from certain stations with minimal impact on emergency service delivery. This analysis utilized historical incident data from the calendar year 2023 and a drive-time analysis from surrounding stations.

One (1) out of the four (4) stations identified in this analysis as having a minimal impact on service delivery is Station 855 (Bunker Hill). Emergency service delivery to this area is covered within eight (8) minutes from the time of dispatch by surrounding stations within a five (5) mile radius, which meets a metric supported and recommended by our consultants, Fitch & Associates.

**9201 Basil Court, 4th Floor East  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
VOICE - (301) 883-5200 FAX - (301) 883-5212 TDD - (301) 925-5167**



Ms. Takisha James

June 7, 2024

Page 2

**Station 855 (Bunker Hill)** - 3716 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

**Staffing Model:** Shiftwork (24/7) by career personnel

**Number of Career Personnel Assigned:** 20 (5 per shift)

**Coverage by other surrounding stations within 8 minutes:** 801, 807, 809, 830, 844

**Station Ownership:** Prince George's County

**Number of Operational (Fit Tested) Volunteer Members:** 14 (Mount Rainier Volunteer Fire Department and Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department Combined)

**Emergency Response Resources:** Engine, BLS Ambulance

The Fire/EMS Department plans to mitigate the impact of career staff reallocation by coordinating with the volunteer leadership of the station for deployment and coverage by operational, fit-tested volunteer firefighters, both for the above-identified station and surrounding fire stations. The Department will continue to utilize the "Move Up" analysis software to identify service gaps and strategically redeploy resources throughout the County into high-demand areas.

Finally, Surge Units and Peak Units will be deployed in accordance with our Departmental General Orders and as operationally necessary to ensure optimal EMS coverage during peak demand. To ensure emergency medical services (EMS) continue to be provided to Bunker Hill and surrounding communities, the ambulance typically assigned to Station 838 (Chapel Oaks) will be assigned to Station 855 area as a peak unit. Additionally, the Northern EMS Duty Officer will be temporarily relocated to Station 855 to ensure Advanced Life Support (ALS) resources are readily available to the community.

The **effective date** for reallocating career staffing from this station is **Sunday, June 30, 2024**. If you have any questions or concerns during this temporary staffing reallocation, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that our Department can continue to provide efficient and effective service while simultaneously prioritizing the health and safety of our members.

Sincerely,



Tiffany D. Green,  
Fire Chief