



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

Emmett V. Jordan, *Mayor*
Kristen L.K. Weaver, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Amy Knesel
Danielle McKinney
Jenni Pompei
Silke I. Pope
Rodney M. Roberts

October 2, 2024

Chief Tiffany Green
Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department
9201 Basil Court, 4th Floor East
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear Chief Green,

I would like to extend our gratitude for sending Public Information Officer Alan Doubleday to represent Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department (PGFD) at the community meeting on September 12, 2024. While we appreciate having a representative from PGFD attend, I must express that we did not gain any new insights, nor did we receive any commitments on the items or collaboration we have repeatedly requested from you and your office.

We are also concerned that the periodic updates you promised have not been provided frequently (a minimum of every 2 weeks), and to date, we have not received a response to our letter dated August 30th. More concerning is the evidence we have received indicating that the PGFD may not be properly tracking calls by their priority level or meeting the standards of coverage to which PGFD has committed.

For example, based on reports from residents, the following incidents are cause for serious concern:

- **September 18, 2024:** A medical emergency occurred on Gardenway, where the response time appears to have exceeded the 8-minute standard. Tragically, the gentleman experiencing anaphylactic shock passed away.
- **September 1, 2024:** A 3-year-old child was struck by a vehicle on Ridge Road, with response times exceeding 13 minutes for this critical emergency.
- **September 23, 2024:** A fire alarm was triggered at Green Ridge House, our city's senior housing complex, and PGFD classified the call as nonpriority, resulting in a delayed response time of 23 minutes.

While we understand that PGFD's records may differ, we welcome any data that can clarify these discrepancies so we can better understand the response times.

Given your office's lack of responsiveness to our repeated requests for data sharing, we have begun to question the accuracy of the reports and response times you have provided. Trust and communication were meant to be key components of the success of your temporary staffing plan. However, your office's failure to respond to our requests has eroded our confidence in the information being shared.

These incidents are extremely alarming. They highlight our concerns that PGFD's response times are not meeting the necessary standards for our community's safety and well-being. We urgently request a direct response from your office regarding these incidents, the raw data that we have repeatedly requested and ask for immediate updates on the actions PGFD will take to address these serious issues.



A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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Finally, these incidents reinforce our ongoing concerns that the summer staffing plan is inadequate in providing the necessary coverage for our residents. With these terrible incidents and the conclusion of the summer season, it is clear that this temporary experiment needs to end, and our career firefighters must return to Greenbelt. Failing to do so is reckless and further endangers the lives of our residents. I strongly urge you to reinstate our career firefighters at Greenbelt Fire Station immediately.

We remain committed to working collaboratively to reintegrate the career firefighters into the Greenbelt community and ensure the safety of our residents.

Sincerely,

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor

Kristen L.K. Weaver, Mayor Pro-Tem

Silke I. Pope, Council Member

Danielle P. McKinney, Council Member

Jenni A. Pompei, Council Member

Rodney M. Roberts, Council Member

Amy E. Knesel, Council Member

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Four Cities Coalition
Josué Salmerón, City Manager