



# Baltimore Fire Officers Association

Local No. 964

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CHARTERED FEBRUARY 20, 1948



June 12, 2020

Mr. Chairperson Costello and Members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee,

I, Stephen Horchar, Jr., President of the Baltimore Fire Officers, Local 964, am writing to express that we are adamantly opposed to the reduction of two (2) suppression companies as proposed in the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021. We feel reducing the number of units that are available to respond on calls is unacceptable. In our opinion, the number of suppression units in Baltimore City is at the minimum possible number.

Disbanding a unit in a "double house" reduces 50% of the available resources that would be responding from that station, increasing the workload on the remaining company and possibly affecting response times to emergencies in that area.

During this national health pandemic, our members of both unions (Fire Fighter Local 734 and Fire Officers Local 964) have stood strong and served the City and citizens of Baltimore, above and beyond. Now, nor any time in the future, would we feel it to be acceptable to disband any suppression units. We ask that this budget not be passed or accepted with the intent of closing of units.

Sincerely,

Stephen Horchar, Jr.  
President