



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS AGENDA

**Greenbelt Municipal Building
25 Crescent Road
Monday, October 15, 2018
8:00 PM**

Work Session Packet

Work Session Packet
[PGFD WS 10-15-18.pdf](#)

City Council Work Sessions Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: October 15, 2018

Submitted by: Beverly Palau

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Work Session Packet

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[PGFD WS 10-15-18.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session

with

Prince George's County Fire Department

**8 p.m. - Monday
October 15, 2018**

**Council Chambers
Municipal Building**

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Branchville Volunteer Fire Department – staffing issues**
- **Relationship between volunteers and career personnel**
- **Ambulance Billing**
- **Capital Improvement Projects for Greenbelt Fire Station**
- **Other Items**

Four Cities Coalition

August 20, 2018



Benjamin M. Barksdale, Fire Chief
Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department
9201 Basil Court, Suite 452
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Chief Barksdale:



The Four Cities Coalition (comprised of the elected officials from the cities of College Park, Greenbelt, New Carrollton and the Town of Berwyn Heights) heard from the President of the Branchville Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad (BVFC&RS) regarding the ongoing challenges of providing an acceptable level of service as a station only staffed by volunteers. As you know, we previously expressed our concern to Chief Bashoor when career staff were transferred from Branchville. Despite significant efforts to recruit and retain volunteers to provide Fire and EMS services from this station, we understand that frequently this station is not able to respond to calls.



When Chief Bashoor last spoke to the College Park City Council, he did explain the proximity of other Fire/EMS stations and the computer aided dispatch of closest units to a call for service. However, we believe that there are times when even a delay of minutes could result in a tragedy in the first due service area of BVFC&RS. We are especially concerned with any delays in EMS service response. As our "aging-in-place" populations grow, demands on EMS services will increase. Increased University Boulevard, Rhode Island Avenue, Beltway and Baltimore Avenue traffic will certainly result in increased calls for service and increased response time to calls for EMS services.



The Four Cities Coalition is requesting response time data and any PGFD/EMS data analysis that has been done to assess response times for calls for Fire and EMS service in the BVFC&RS first due area. Of particular interest, we would like to see any comparison of response times to incidents when Branchville is available to respond versus times when another station or apparatus responded to Branchville's first due calls.

We are appealing to you and County Executive Baker to provide weekday, daytime, career EMT staffing at the Branchville station. We will assist to the extent that we are able to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and EMTs for Branchville, but in the meantime, we believe our residents deserve the supplemental career staffing necessary to sustain Fire and EMS services 24/7/365 at this station.

Four Cities Coalition

Chief Benjamin Barksdale
Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department
August 20, 2018
Page 2



We are available to discuss these matters at any time convenient to you.
Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn White".

Mayor Lynn White
Town of Berwyn Heights

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emmett V. Jordan".

Mayor Emmett Jordan
City of Greenbelt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Wojahn".

Mayor Patrick Wojahn
City of College Park

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duane Rosenberg".

Mayor Duane Rosenberg
City of New Carrollton

Cc: Rushern Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive
County Council Member Mary Lehman, District 1
County Council Member Dannielle Glaros, District 3
Mark Magaw, Deputy County Administrative Officer for Public Safety
Jay Tucker, Chairman, PGC Fire Commission
William Cunningham, PGC Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association
Dr. Wallace Loh, President, University of Maryland College Park