

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 6

Resolution No. 86-2019

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION levying Fire and Rescue tax rates beginning July 1, 2019.

Introduced and read first time May 6, 2019.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on May 20, 2019.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn , by the County Council
on May 29, 2019.

Certified By Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive on June 5, 2019

Calvin Ball
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Council has adopted the Annual Budget and Appropriation
2 Ordinance and, having considered the amounts necessary to provide for emergency medical
3 treatment, fire suppression, prevention, and related functions, finds it necessary to levy a fire and
4 rescue tax in order to fund the County's operating and capital costs to provide fire and emergency
5 services; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Section 17.102 of the County Code provides for a fire and rescue tax on all
8 assessable property in the County; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Section 6-302 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of
11 Maryland requires that the property tax rate for personal property and operating real property of
12 a public utility, as assessed under Section 8-109(c) of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated
13 Code of Maryland, be set at no more than 2.5 times the rate for real property; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, from 1992 to 2012, the County had two separate fire tax districts; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, on March 29, 2012, the County Council passed Council Bill 9-2012 that
18 eliminated the separate fire districts and created a single fire tax district; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, for Fiscal Year 2020, there is a proposed increase in the Fire and Rescue
21 Tax rate.
22

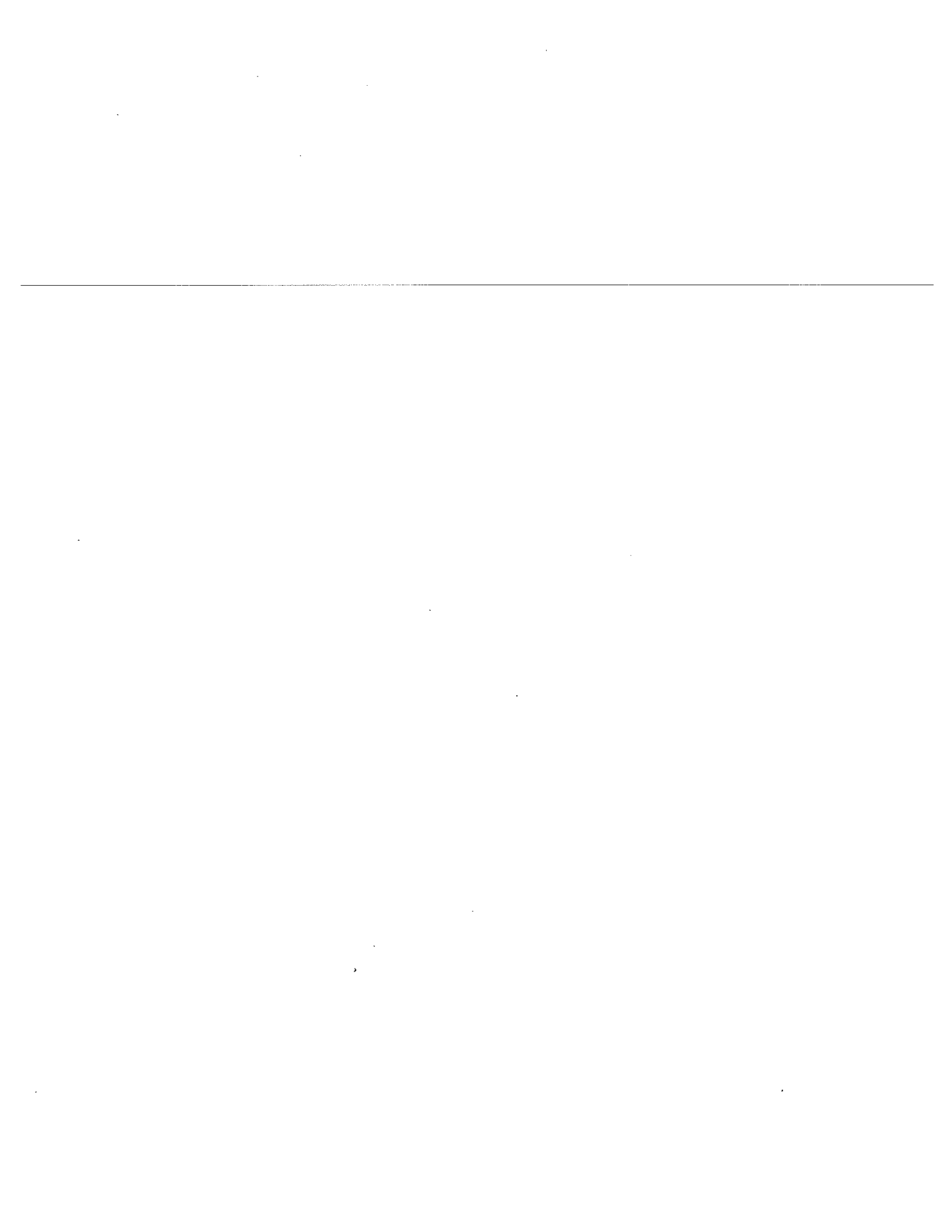
23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
24 Maryland, this 29th day of May, 2019, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17.102
25 of the Howard County Code, that a Howard County Fire and Rescue Tax is levied upon all
26 assessable property in the County beginning July 1, 2019 in the following amounts per \$100 of
27 assessed valuation:
28

29 Fiscal Year 2020 rate per \$100 assessed value	[[17.6]]23.6 cents
30	
31 Fiscal Year 2020 rate per \$100 assessed value for	[[44]]59 cents
32 operating personal property and operating real property	

1 owned by public utilities

2

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fire and Rescue Tax rates shall become
4 effective July 1, 2019 and shall continue in effect until changed or repealed by subsequent action
5 of the County Council.



Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 86-2019

BY: David Yungmann

Legislative Day No. 7

Date: 5/29/19

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment phases in the increase to the Fire Tax.)

1 On page 1, strike line 29 and substitute:

2 "Fiscal Year 2020 rate per \$100 assessed value [[17.6]]19.6 cents

3 FISCAL YEAR 2021 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE 21.6 CENTS

4 FISCAL YEAR 2022 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE 23.6 CENTS"

5
6 Also on page 1, strike lines 31 and 32 and on page 2 strike line 1 and substitute:

7 "Fiscal Year 2020 rate per \$100 assessed value for operating personal property and operating
8 real property owned by public utilities [[44]]49 cents

9 FISCAL YEAR 2021 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE FOR OPERATING PERSONAL PROPERTY AND
10 OPERATING REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES 54 CENTS

11 FISCAL YEAR 2022 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE FOR OPERATING PERSONAL PROPERTY AND
12 OPERATING REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES 59 CENTS"

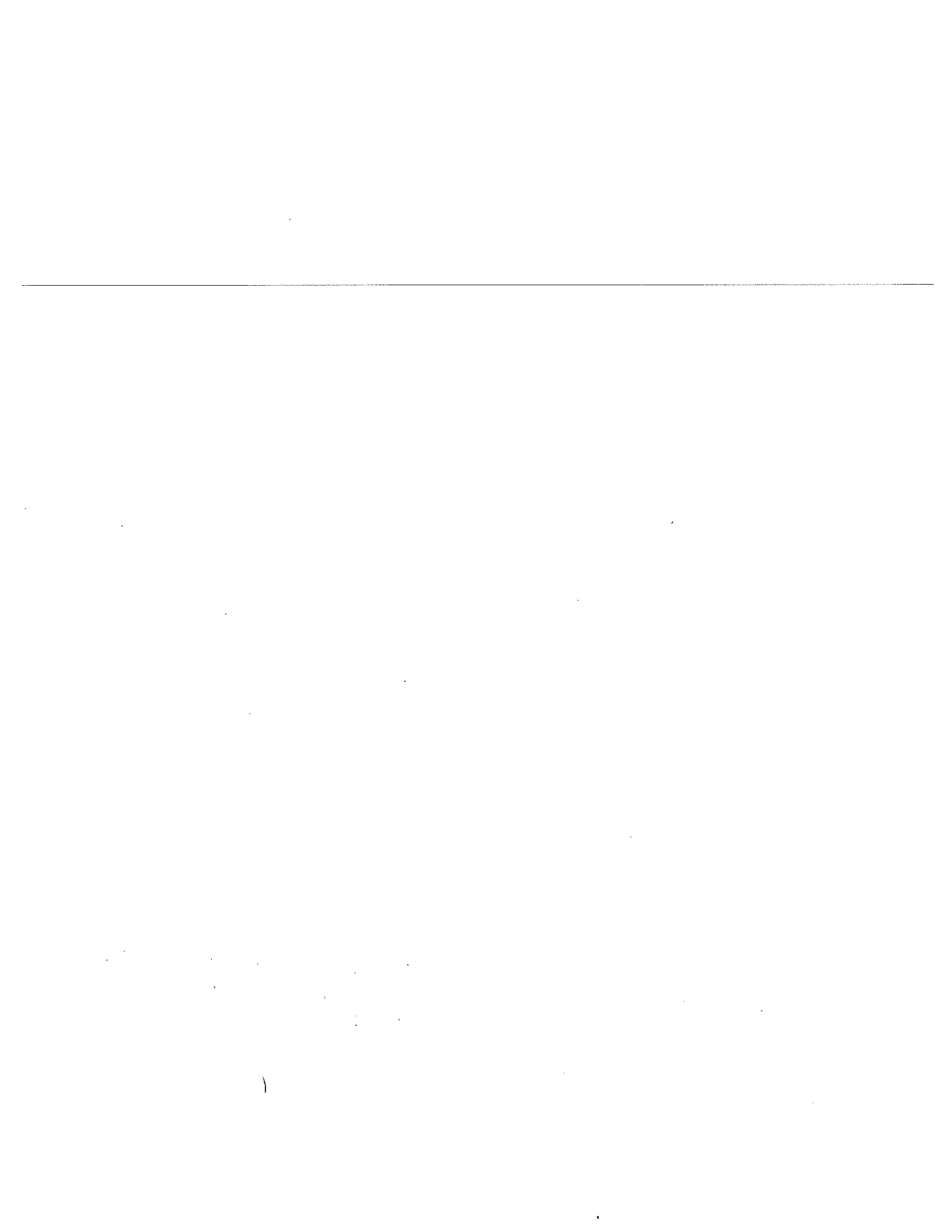
13
14 This Amendment is contingent on the adoption of Amendment to Council Bill 24-2019.

ADOPTED

FAILED

SIGNATURE

~~not introduced~~
Jessica Toddmark



Sayers, Margery

From: Demetrios J Matsakis <djmatsa@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 2:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 34% fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members,

As a Howard County resident of 39 years, my wife and I, find your action in approving the massive 34% fire tax increase on the back of already over taxed citizens appalling! Apparently this council has no regard for the tax payers while giving developers a pass.

What a terrible way to begin your terms in office. Your inexperience is quite apparent!

Sincerely,

Demetrios J. Matsakis
Rebecca R. Matsakis, M.D.

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Greg Bissonette <bissonette@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2019 2:00 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Jung, Deb
Subject: Re: Fire Tax increase? No, thank you.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Afternoon,

I must express my disappointment with your voting on the current Howard County budget with the increased taxes for its citizens. I strongly believe this is not the proper course of action, especially the increased fire tax when bonds could have been issued to build the requirement fire stations. You have added an increased burden on the residents of Howard County at a time when tax rates are already high.

I am also writing to express disappointment that, as representatives, none of you responded to my previous email. This is the minimum level of courtesy I expect from my representatives, even if it is a generic "I received your email and will consider your point". Several of you now have the unfortunate distinction of being the first politicians for whom I regret casting a ballot, and I suspect this will be my first and only ballot in your favor.

Sincerely,
Greg Bissonette

On Tue, May 28, 2019 at 2:02 PM Greg Bissonette <bissonette@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear all,

I have observed the proposed fire tax increase, as cited in the Baltimore sun and the Howard County 2020 operating budget, and strongly urge you to not support this.

Not only do we have the highest property taxes around (far surpassing even Montgomery county, when controlling for the same dollar value of property) but in the shadow of a gigantic federal tax increase, this is unsustainable. Losing federal deductions and rising local taxes is not within my family budget as we try to raise two young kids.

We have already had an unanticipated \$8500 federal and state tax bill which depleted our family savings and which will continue occurring for the foreseeable future. Do not put this family further in a bind by increasing the annual fire tax rate too.

We do not support this increase in the fire tax and hope you will join us in not supporting it as well.

Best,
Greg Bissonette

Sayers, Margery

From: Shyam Biswal <sbiswal@jhu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 7:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members,

Clearly, overdevelopment needs to STOP. Is the council blind to see the traffic from 4 pm onwards. Shame that now inspite of adding more tax payer, they are proposing to increase taxes. Even the increase is very significant.

Please take this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Shyam Biswal
4449 stonecrest drive
Ellicott City
MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Georgette McLean <georgettemmc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 12:26 AM
To: CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel
Subject: HC Fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I hope it didn't pass!

As a long time resident and currently living in Taylor Village , Ellicott City I'm very much against a tax hike (and a huge one at that!) to build more fire stations . The hike proposed is careless and overreaching. The council needs to have intelligent thoughtful and creative thinkers . So hire more EMS crews during peak hours if Emergency calls are majority of what the Fire house staff is doing . Find another way people . Stop taxing us to death because the council members are too ignorant to develop a new or creative solution We the people don't need to build and pay for more fire stations . Stop digging into our pockets - the hardworking residents who own real estate . If fire stations get 1 fire call per day how does that translate into "must build more fire stations?" That's the lazy mans approach to solving a perceived issue. We must have have some very politically motivated and socialistic people on the council.

Georgette McLean

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Smeins Howard <daeva77@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 6:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening,

Please vote no on this tax increase. We're already overburdened and it doesn't make sense to raise taxes this much. The county needs to stay within a reasonable budget, prioritize, and make tough decisions, just like families do. Find the money within the budget. The taxes in this state and county are going to drive me out of it.

Thank you,
Donna Howard
Dayton, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Diron & Virginia Sine <dvsine99@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 3:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote no on increasing fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

- This increase is too much, too fast. You are hurting your constituents. People will leave Howard County and Maryland. Our taxes are already through the roof.
 - Where did all the money go that is coming from the new residences property taxes?!? Also look for wasteful spending. Things the government should NOT be funding as a whole.
- Virginia Sine

Sayers, Margery

From: Walton, Douglas
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fire tax

Do you know of the fire tax bill passed?

Images and/or links to images are for viewing purposes only. Please do not disseminate these photos publicly or otherwise until they have been vetted by HCDFRS personnel and have been posted on our official social media pages.

Sent from a mobile device, please forgive typos.

Doug Walton
Howard County, MD, Department of Fire and Rescue Services
Office of Community Outreach and Media Affairs
Media Affairs branch
Department Photographer
Office: (410) 313-5962
Cell and text: (443) 280-1934

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 11:33 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: fire tax hike

From: Valerie Lilly <vlilly@jandrroofing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: fire tax hike

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning.

I'm writing to you today to perhaps persuade you to take another look at raising taxes here in Howard County.

As I understand, there is a *fire tax* hike on the table for Howard County with the idea of using the influx of funds to build two new fire stations.

The talk of fire stations in Howard County is near and dear to my heart, as I am an Active Duty Howard County Fire & Rescue Volunteer.

Albeit I am always in favor of assuring the community has needed resources to protect residents in emergencies, I am not in favor of burdening the residents with additional *fire taxes* in a tax structure already tipping unbearable.

I have lived and had a business in Howard County for many years and endured all of the exorbitant taxes (and hikes) along the way.

Yes, we have beautiful communities in Howard County and all the extras have a cost, but there has to be a point where we realize that we are pricing our communities out of reach for most.

My personal property taxes exceed \$10k/year for a Howard County home on < ¼ acre (this does not include the property taxes I pay to have a business/commercial property in Howard County). — At this level, taxes already seem out of control here.

Even if I am able to pay off my home, and should I desire to stay in Howard County at retirement, on a fixed income I will have to continue to pay close to \$1k/month (at today's rate) in taxes for the privilege of being a Howard County resident.

Some years ago, Howard County (specifically the planned areas) had controls in place to assure we didn't get too big, too congested, too commercial.... And it seems those days left with Rouse. – It's truly a shame that we are losing the appeal of Howard County's diverseness and greatness back in the day. Instead, we are slowly becoming a city-like community only for only those at the top of the food chain (who can afford to own property here).

I am no expert in municipality finances, however I am a finance/accounting professional, and it seems to me there are other ways to achieve the goal of two new fire stations and we should explore alternatives (bonds, fund raising, donations of materials/labor, volunteer, fed funds, temporary redistribution of tax funds, developer permit hikes, special tax on large acreage/farm land sold for development...).

Certainly a new *fire tax* hike will not go away after the two stations are built, so let's call it what it is – a straight “**tax hike**” in Howard County, which tips unbearable.

I hope you will read this knowing this is not only the words of one long-time Howard County residential property owner and commercial property owner, but the sediment of many other Howard County folks. Tax increases are pushing people out of Howard County, a deterrent to new residents, and a barrier for employers in Howard County to attract workers. Let's instead work to use resources smartly and look outside the “tax” box to achieve our goals in this great community.

Thank you for your time in reading my thoughts!

Valerie M. Lilly, CFO



(301)470-6260

Sayers, Margery

From: Valerie Lilly <vlilly@jandrroofing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 11:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: fire tax hike

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning.

– I'm writing to you today to perhaps persuade you to take another look at raising taxes here in Howard County.

As I understand, there is a *fire tax* hike on the table for Howard County with the idea of using the influx of funds to build two new fire stations.

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Thank you for your time in reading my thoughts!

Valerie M. Lilly, CFO



(301)470-6260

Valerie M. Lilly, CFO



(301)470-6260

Sayers, Margery

From: M. Djavani <djavani@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Subject: Concern about increase in fire tax for Howard county residents

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Subject: Concern about increase in fire tax for Howard county residents

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed 34% increase in fire tax for building two new fire stations. The current fire tax rate of \$0.176 is already much higher compared to the \$0.1065 in Montgomery County and \$0.064 in Charles County. Fire Tax increase occurs every year. Why do we have to pay such a high fire tax after the construction is completed? Such a big & permanent increase in fire tax is not justifiable in the context that the fire tax in Howard County is among the highest in Maryland. While building two new fire stations seems plausible, they should be and can be funded by Capital Budget or by bonds as all government capital projects are normally funded.

Furthermore, building the fire station is a one-time expenditure. Why should such a huge increase in fire tax become such a permanent burden for the county residents? If we really need to spend the money to build the fire stations, why can't we charge more developers' fees if the stations are for more developments in the areas?

I hope you will seriously reconsider your decision & stop putting additional burdens on your county residents.

Sincerely,

Azar Nouraky

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Proposed Fire Tax, concerned voter

From: Joel Prescott <joelprescott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 7:40 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Fire Tax, concerned voter

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joel Prescott <joelprescott@yahoo.com>
Date: May 28, 2019 at 6:57:11 PM EDT
To: ojones@howardcountygov.gov
Subject: Proposed Fire Tax, concerned voter

Dear Mr. Jones,

I just heard from another resident about a proposal to significantly increase the fire tax in Howard County.

I am a recently retired resident who has lived in Columbia for 34 years.

First, tax increases like this disproportionately affect Senior citizens trying to remain in their homes while living on a fixed income. This is an increasing percentage of the County population, and we vote!

In general, I disagree with the tactic of pulling services like this out as separate fees vs them being covered by the taxes we already pay for

County services.

This has also happened with trash fees and I consider this poor stewardship of our taxes.

I would appreciate you opposing this tax increase and would also appreciate hearing your views on the disturbing trend of "fee" increases!

Thank you,

Joel Prescott
Thunderhill
Mobile 410 707-1387

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please don't increase taxes

From: mangino4@verizon.net <mangino4@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 8:44 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please don't increase taxes

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote no on the fire tax increase. After the loss of the SALT deduction the last thing we need is more taxes. Developers should pay fair share of new infrastructure.

Thank you,
Mike and Gloria Mangino
Ellicott City

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fire tax increase is too high

From: Ye Yan <yanye75@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 12:01 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fire tax increase is too high

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Jones,

I've been living District #2 for 10 years and I voted for you last Nov. I understand funds are needed to build the two new fire stations. And the proposed fire tax increase is a shocking 34% increase. It is beyond what we can bear. However, there are different ways to fund this project to reduce the increase, for example, partially funded by Capital Budget, issue bonds. Further, the two fire stations don't need to be built at the same time. We should build them one at a time, therefore, the fire tax increase don't have to increase at once. Please work with other councilmen/women on this matter on our behalf.

Best Regards,
Ye

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: No on fire tax build schools

-----Original Message-----

From: Dkarfonta@greenconnected.com <dkarfonta@greenconnected.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 8:16 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: No on fire tax build schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael Mulcare <mulcarem@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 8:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed Increase to Howard County Fire Tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council Members,

I see that the new budget proposed by the County Executive includes a significant increase to the fire tax to cover the cost of 2 new fire stations. As a Howard County resident **I do not support this increase**. Our current fire tax is higher than surrounding counties and there are alternative ways to fund the proposed fire houses that will not add to our annual property tax bill. Additionally my State income taxes increased substantially (17%) as changes to the Federal Income tax rules prevent me from itemizing deductions. Use some of that windfall to fund the fire stations and spread the proposed construction over several years.

Respectfully,
Michael Mulcare
Highland, Md 20777

P.S. Please distribute this email to all members of the County Council.

Sayers, Margery

From: sajit mathew kunnumkal <sajit.kunnumkal@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 6:58 AM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Concern about increase in fire tax for howard county residents

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed 34% increase in fire tax for building two new fire stations. The current fire tax rate of \$0.176 is already much higher compared to the \$0.1065 in Montgomery County and \$0.064 in Charles County. Fire Tax increase occurs every year. Why do we have to pay such a high fire tax after the construction is completed? Such a big & permanent increase in fire tax is not justifiable in the context that the fire tax in Howard County is among the highest in Maryland. While building two new fire stations seems plausible, they should be and can be funded by Capital Budget or by bonds as all government capital projects are normally funded.

Furthermore, building the fire station is a one-time expenditure. Why should such a huge increase in fire tax become such a permanent burden for the county residents? If we really need to spend the money to build the fire stations, why can't we charge more developers' fees if the stations are for more developments in the areas?

I hope you will seriously reconsider your decision & stop putting additional burdens on your county residents.

—
Sajit Mathew Kunnumkal

Sayers, Margery

From: Khaled Helmi <lead97@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 12:08 AM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Tax Increase - Fire Tax Hike

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Representatives & Mr. Yungmann,

As a long-standing Howard County resident, I'm very concerned about this tax increase. We are already taxed enough, plus this seems a bit much considering its a one-time expense, yet a permanent increase - there are much better ways to fund this. Such a big & permanent increase in fire tax is not justifiable in the context that the fire tax in Howard County is among the highest in Maryland. In my opinion, the current fire tax rate of \$0.176 is already way too high compared to the \$0.1065 in Montgomery County and \$0.064 in Charles County.

We appreciate what you do for us, but one of the big responsibilities we entrust you with as our representatives is to be stewards of our money. **I dont feel like this tax increase is the appropriate stewardship as it is a significant burden on residents.**

Please reconsider this measure.

Sincerely,
Khaled Helmi
Clarksville, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Hongling Zhou <honglingzjie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 12:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb
Subject: Please vote NO to 34% fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council members,

I learned the County executive proposed a 6-cent fire tax increase to remodel the Waterloo Fire Station, and to design and construct a new fire station in North Columbia. I understand it is very important to improve our public safety and emergency response. However, I don't see that increasing the fire tax by 34% is the best or the only way to resolve the problem.

The 34% increase of fire tax causes current fire tax rate increase from \$0.176 to \$0.236 for every \$100 of assessed property value. In my opinion, the current fire tax rate of \$0.176 is already way too high compared to the \$0.1065 in Montgomery County and \$0.064 in Charles County. If there isn't a capital project for fire department every year for the following 5 to 10 years in the county, why should the fire tax be increased by 34% from now on? As you are aware that any tax increase will be permanent.

When the county makes a decision that impacts each resident, such as a permanent tax increase, I think the elected county officials owe it to voters to provide reasonable explanations. Otherwise, there should be no tax increase of any type.

Thanks for your attention.

Regards,
Hongling Zhou
7065 River Oak Court
Clarksville, MD 21029

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ye Yan <yanye75@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: please vote against the fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District #2, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,
Ye

Sayers, Margery

From: Bill Bird <bill@oldbirds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Vote Against Fire Tax Increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

— This is indeed an egregious burden on tax payers...especially on top of the windfall tax revenue the county received as a result of the 2018 federal tax rule changes. (For me the tax rule changes resulted in a 25% increase in my effective tax rate...an extra ~\$700 from me alone to Howard County!!.) And now you want to heap this 34% increase in fire tax. Unbelievable!

In, my opinion you need to control spending better or if you really want more money have the courage to propose an justify an straight up increase in general property tax rate or actual income tax rate and see how that goes over.

https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=112506142&ct=dPtWSUYWo9B8Bmf6gsy3pUy0WTHXrw2jWoLmboHvwkkgE59KY4dINaf-c5VoD7G4&ec=iD9EVf8Fqz_GipY9I9G7ig%3D%3D&lc=14569&is=npe



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Dongyi(Tony) Du <pu_yu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 8:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear county council members,

First, I'd like to say thank you for your service.

I have some concerns regarding the proposed fire tax. As we all know the county is facing some financial deficits, such as budget for education. At one time, the BOE even proposed to lay off teachers, reduce art teachers, increase classroom size etc.

I understand the need of new fire stations. With current county revenue, I don't understand why we need to build two new ones at the same time. Building fire station is one time budget and maintain them is long time. Building them cost a lot more than maintain them. I am wondering how we will spend the extra tax dollars after we build the two fire stations. Have you thought about other better options for this kind of one time task? I would rather we increase a little more tax for education and smaller increase the fire tax for one time project.

Sincerely,

Dongyi(Tony) Du

Sayers, Margery

From: Tracie Doyle <theresedoyle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 6:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: howard county fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

PLEASE do not raise the fire tax in Howard County.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 5:20 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fire Property Tax Increase

Importance: High

From: Bob Derby3 <bderby3@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 9:55 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fire Property Tax Increase
Importance: High

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Sir...

Do the right thing and **VOTE NO!**

The adoption of a tax increase to fund the building of new fire houses is unacceptable. This expansion should be funded either via Bonds or by the builders who are financially benefitting from new construction in Howard County.

The tax would remain long after the new fire houses are built....

Thank you...

Bob Derby
4910 Harrogate Road
21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:57 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fire tax increase

From: Bijo Thomas <bijothomas1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:37 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Councilman,

As a resident in Howard county, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire tax increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Regards,
thomas

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Oppose to fire tax increase

From: Hui Jiang <hjiang71@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in Howard County, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,
Hui

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please OPPOSE fire tax increase

From: Shu Li <ritalala.sl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please OPPOSE fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Member Jones,

As a long-time resident in HC District 2, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the nation and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,

Shu Li
4905 Alice Ave
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please vote AGAINST fire tax increase

From: Paul H <myoldsmoky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please vote AGAINST fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Member Jones,

As a long-time resident in HC District 2, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the nation and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,

Paul Huang
4905 Alice Ave
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please don't raise my property taxes in HoCo!

From: Emily Ziemer <egziemer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 12:58 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please don't raise my property taxes in HoCo!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member Jones,

Please do not raise my property taxes tomorrow for two fire stations. If this is needed, please fund it with the capital budget or bonds. But this permanent increase in the fire tax is ridiculous. Please vote no to raising taxes.

Thanks,
Emily Ziemer

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: fire tax

From: Valerie <valerieleonard@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilman Jones,

As your constituent I am writing to log my protest against the proposed 34% increase in the fire tax. Who are they kidding? This is one of the most absurd proposed tax hikes ever! I grew up in Northern California...was there to care for my mother during the Tubbs fire...and her county hasn't proposed such a ridiculous hike. Howard County is not likely to be devastated by wildfires...or even home fires...stop this ridiculous and laughable 34% "fire" tax.

Valerie Leonard
Thunder Hill

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please don't raise my property taxes in HoCo!

From: Barbara Ziemer <bziemer184@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please don't raise my property taxes in HoCo!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member Jones,

Please do not raise my property taxes tomorrow for two fire stations. If this is needed, please fund it with the capital budget or bonds. But this permanent increase in the fire tax is ridiculous. Please vote no to raising taxes.

Thanks,
Barbara Ziemer

Sayers, Margery

From: Mr Bob <mrmunson01@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 3:48 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Fire Tax Increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I strongly oppose this increase and feel that more of the financial burden imposed by increased development should be borne by the developers themselves.

Bob Munson
3929 Chatham Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042
443.928.4217

Sayers, Margery

From: Hui Jiang <huijiang2010@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 3:13 PM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb
Subject: Oppose to too high fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District 5, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed fire tax increase. Maryland is already one of the most heavily taxed states, and many Howard County residents are already paying extremely high property taxes. Please vote against this proposed too high fire tax increase! There should be better ways to solve this problem, and increasing too much taxes won't be smartest one.

Best regards,

Hui Jiang
14448 Dorsey Mill Rd, Glenwood

Sayers, Margery

From: Valerie <valerieleonard@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: "fire" tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilpersons,

As a Howard County resident for the last 15 years, I am writing to log my protest against the proposed 34% increase in the fire tax. Who are you kidding? This is one of the most absurd proposed tax hikes ever! I grew up in Northern California...was there to care for my mother during the Tubbs fire in 2017...and her county hasn't proposed such a ridiculous hike. Building firehouses are a one time expenditure. Howard County is not likely to be devastated by wildfires...or even home fires...stop this ridiculous and laughable 34% "fire" tax.

Valerie Leonard
Thunder Hill

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Greg Bissonette <bissonette@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:03 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Fire Tax increase? No, thank you.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear all,

I have observed the proposed fire tax increase, as cited in the Baltimore sun and the Howard County 2020 operating budget, and strongly urge you to not support this.

Not only do we have the highest property taxes around (far surpassing even Montgomery county, when controlling for the same dollar value of property) but in the shadow of a gigantic federal tax increase, this is unsustainable. Losing federal deductions and rising local taxes is not within my family budget as we try to raise two young kids.

We have already had an unanticipated \$8500 federal and state tax bill which depleted our family savings and which will continue occurring for the foreseeable future. Do not put this family further in a bind by increasing the annual fire tax rate too.

We do not support this increase in the fire tax and hope you will join us in not supporting it as well.

Best,
Greg Bissonette

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Ziemer <bziemer184@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please don't raise the Fire Tax in HoCo

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

- Please do not raise my property taxes tomorrow for two fire stations. If these are actually needed, please fund it with the capital budget or bonds. This permanent increase in the fire tax is ridiculous. Please vote 'no' to raising taxes.

Thanks,
Barbara Ziemer

Sayers, Margery

From: cc.rac@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire Tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Sir or Mesdame

What are you thinking?? The residents and basically everyone I know elected you to fight for the people. This Fire Tax should not be another burden on Howard Counties Residents. Our taxes are higher. then most and everytime you turn around Howard County Gov.wants to squeeze more out of us. You are making it impossible for residents to afford our homes and live in Howard County. Where and how does the Howard County Government show is citizens they are working for OUR BEST INTEREST? The trust is broken in all Government. ..Take all you can from your citizens and you slowly own them!!

Shame on all of you!!!

Why don't you put the tax on developers as they are making money hand over fist and getting all the tax breaks . Or is the Government miss managing our tax dollars? Explain yourselves. Not everyone in Howard County has unlimited means.

Very Concerned. Resident

Clg

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Tablet

Sayers, Margery

From: Emily Ziemer <egziemer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please don't raise the Fire Tax in HoCo

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

Please do not raise my property taxes tomorrow for two fire stations. If these are actually needed, please fund it with the capital budget or bonds. This permanent increase in the fire tax is ridiculous. Please vote 'no' to raising taxes.

Thanks,
Emily Ziemer

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Shih <shih4500-nancy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 12:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose raising fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear HoCo Council members,

I strongly oppose the proposed fire tax hike. I fully support building 2 new fire stations. However, such one-time capital expenditure should be funded by other means such as issuing government bond rather than increasing property tax permanently. It's totally not justifiable.

Please vote No to fire tax increase.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Nancy Shih

Sayers, Margery

From: Hui Jiang <hjiang71@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: SUBJECT: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District #5, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,
Hui

Taylor Farm Rd.
Woodstock, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Bijo Thomas <bijothomas1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire tax increase is too high

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members, As a resident in Howard county, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire tax increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Regards,
Thomas

CA 86-2019

Sayers, Margery

From: susan crovo <scrovo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 8:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed "fire" tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

From what I have read about this tax, it will raise our taxes substantially. Have you considered another avenue to use instead of raising taxes? As it is, our taxes are barely manageable and an increase will put a lot of homeowners in jeopardy. I would think that you would want to keep responsible homeowners who pay taxes instead of bankrupting them.

I hope you will consider another alternative.

Sincerely,

Susan Crovo
8115B Yellow Pine Dr
21043

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: . Darlene Affinito <daraffinito@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 8:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel
Subject: Proposed fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to let you know of my and my husband's opposition to this proposed huge tax increase. The residence of this county are already severely over taxed. My property taxes are obscene compared to most other counties . Most people I know who are thinking of retirement in the next 10 years are planning on leaving this county. It is unfortunate because it is a beautiful county.

If you feel that you must raise taxes for this, it should be raised on the new developers and the new home prices that are causing this. I know for myself and most of my friends we will keep voting out people that constantly propose these taxes. You already have a problem with the education mess up. You should concentrate on that

For once why don't people listen to the taxpayers and what they want. Thank you

Darlene and Dominic Affinito

Darlene Affinito
daraffinito@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Xiaowei Song <dawnwei.song@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 8:48 AM
To: Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Representatives or David Yungmann of my district #5,

I understand funds are needed to build the two new fire stations. But the proposed fire tax increase is a shocking 34% increase. It is beyond what we can bear.

Actually, there are different ways to fund this project to reduce the increase, for example, partially funded by Capital Budget, issue bonds.

Further, the two fire stations don't need to be built at the same time. We should build them one at a time, therefore, the fire tax increase don't have to increase at once.

Please work on this matter on our behalf.

Best Regards,
Xiaowei Song

Sayers, Margery

From: Jing Leng <jleng07@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 9:54 PM
To: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail
Subject: 34% fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council members,

I heard Howard County fire tax proposed a 6-cent increase to help pay for two new fire stations and the support needed to run them. I understand it is very important to improve the cost and emergency response efficiency for public safety. However, I don't see increasing fire tax by 34% is the best or the only way to resolve the problem.

The 34% increase of fire tax causes current fire tax rate from \$0.176 to \$0.236 for each \$100 of assessed property value. In my opinion, our current fire tax rate of \$0.176 is already way too high compared to \$0.107 in Montgomery County and \$0.064 in Charles County.

To make our county a better place to live is the responsibility of every resident. However, when big decisions that impact every family are made, like tax increasing, could county government give us reasonable explanations?

Best regards,

Jing, a resident at district 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Sherry Chen <schen089@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 9:26 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

My address is 11240 Whithorn Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042. I heard fire tax increase is proposed to build the two new fire stations. The painful thing living in Maryland is that proposed tax stays forever. Building two fire stations is a project. So once the project is finished, the tax rate should go back to the current percentage. For example, if the tax increase is 34%, then it should be one year only. If fire tax increase is 17%, then it should be two years only. If fire tax increase is 11%, then it should be 3 years only. Please work with the county executive to have a plan that will impose minimal impact on residents.

Best Regards,
Sherry Chen

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Stratis <bstratis@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 9:14 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Proposed fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening!

There seems to be a growing concern over this proposed fire tax.

First, have other options besides property taxes been considered as sources of funding? If not, why not?

Secondly, is the proposed timeline a necessity, especially if other sources of funding can play a part?

Next, is an increase of almost 50% in the number of fire stations needed or is it more that more EMS services are needed? Has a cost benefit analysis been run to see if increasing EMS services works? Is it true that only 20 of 2200 calls in April were fire-related?

However, the most important question relates to the fact that this is a permanent increase in property taxes. What happens as the money continues to flow after the six year build period for new fire houses?

Retirees on fixed incomes are being hit on every front already - from health care to increased federal and state taxes along with the general rise in prices at stores, gas stations, etc. However, pensions do not rise.

Lastly, this does not make sense when other county organizations such as the school district will be given significantly less support and the funding for the OEC flood plan is unknown.

I hope you make sure you dig into the information, consider carefully and act as prudent stewards of public money.

Thank you,
Rebecca Stratis

Sayers, Margery

From: Qiang Fu <fuqiang0316@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 8:54 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District 5, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,
Qiang Fu

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Wrightson <shadowofthewing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 7:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire Tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am against the proposed budget to increase the fire tax in Howard County to build two new fire stations. I do believe this can and should be funded by other options such as Capital Budget or bonds. This increase seems permanent which is unjustifiable and I strongly oppose it.

Sincerely,
Martha Wrightson

Sayers, Margery

From: Kejing Chen <jing_dan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 3:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

As a resident in Howard County, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire tax increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes. The tax increase will further increase the financial burden of the working families. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Sincerely,

Colin Chen
2004 Crescent Moon Court
Woodstock, MD 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Doug Walton <dougwalton21@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 2:53 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Fire tax - in favor

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ladies and gentlemen of the Council;

I come to you to not as a civilian employee of HCDFRS, but as a taxpayer in Columbia. While some of my neighbors have been quick to voice their concern about the raise in the fire tax, I feel it is of paramount importance to fully fund HCDFRS. We have worked tirelessly to overcome long response times, and building -and properly staffing - firehouses is a way to deliver prompt, professional emergency services to those in need, when they need it. We must also work to increase staffing on the apparatus - those of who who participated in Fire Ops 101 saw how much work fire and EMS activities take.

I also believe that the choice to discontinue HCPD Aviation Unit was a serious mistake.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Doug Walton
Dorsey's Search

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessie Chan <jcforhisglory@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 12:55 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Oppose fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in Howard County, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,

Jessie Zhao and Philip Chan
4955 Windpower Way
Ellicott City MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: gang li <onlyuli@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 11:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District #1, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire tax increase. I understand funds are needed to build the two new fire stations but I am shocked to hear the proposed fire tax increase by 34%. It is beyond what we can bear, plus there are other ways to fund this project to avoid this proposal such as using Capital Budget or issuing bonds. In addition, the two fire stations don't need to be built at the same time. If we build them one at a time, it will reduce the funding requirement and make the situation easier to deal with. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carrying extreme high property taxes due to higher home price. Please vote against the fire tax increase! Thank you!

Best Regards,
Gang Li

Sayers, Margery

From: hzhou1022@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 11:43 AM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Regarding increasing fire tax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council members,

I heard Howard County fire tax proposed a 6-cent increase to redesign the Waterloo Fire Station, and to design and construct a new fire station in North Columbia. I understand it is very important to improve our public safety cost and emergency response efficiency. However, I don't see that increasing the fire tax by 34% is the best or the only way to resolve the problem.

The 34% increase of fire tax causes current fire tax rate from \$0.176 to \$0.236 for each \$100 of assessed property value. In my opinion, the current fire tax rate of \$0.176 is already way too high compared to the \$0.1065 in Montgomery County and \$0.064 in Charles County. If there isn't a capital project for fire department every year for the following 5 to 10 years in the county, why fire tax should be increased by 34% from now and going on?

To contribute and to make our county a better place is the responsibility of every resident in the county. I support our county government. When the county makes decisions that impact each resident, like tax increasing, could the county government give us reasonable explanations? I wonder if the voice of opposition will ever be heard?

Hailan Zhou

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Yong Chen <flyeagle2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 10:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire tax increase should be temporary (1-3 years)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

My address is 10637 Whiterock Court. I heard that fire tax increase is proposed to build the two new fire stations. The painful thing living in Maryland is that proposed tax stays forever. Building two fire stations is a project. So once the project is done, the tax should go back to the current percentage. For example, if the tax increase is 34%, then it should be one year only. If fire tax increase is 17%, then it should be two years only. If fire tax increase is 11%, then it should be 3 years only. Please work with the county executive to have a plan that will impose minimal impact on residents.

Best Regards,
Yong Chen

Sayers, Margery

From: Peter Cheng <petercheng1@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 8:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fire and rescue tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I object to the proposed fire tax increase and EMS transport fee to support building 2 new fire stations. While fire stations are very important, they can be funded by other options such as Capital Budget or by bonds as all government capital projects are normally funded. The county can build two fire stations in two years to stage out costs. Such a big & permanent increase in fire tax is totally not justifiable.

Sent from my iPhone
Peter Cheng.

Sayers, Margery

From: panyongmei@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 8:05 AM
Cc: CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to fire tax increase and hcpss funding shortage

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

>
> Dear County Council Members,
>
> I just got the news that there's a proposal that our county's fire tax be increased by 34% for renovation/construction of two fire stations. As a resident in District 1, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. I'm not sure if other counties have such tax. But Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!
>
> About shortage of hcpss funding, I would suggest to find ways to reduce cost instead of cutting programs, teachers or increasing tax. For example, it's very warm, or hot inside my daughter's school building in winter. I'm wondering how many degree it's set by the heating system in winter? How about decreasing the temperature by 1-2c to reduce cost?
>
> Thank you
>
> Howard county resident
> Yongmei Pan, PhD
>
> 5339 Sunny Field Ct
> Ellicott City, 21043
>
> Best Regards,
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: panyongmei@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 8:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Opposition to fir tax increase and hcpss funding shortage

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

I just got the news that there's a proposal that our county's fire tax be increased by 34% for renovation/construction of two fire stations. As a resident in District 1, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. I'm not sure if other counties have such tax. But Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

About shortage of hcpss funding, I would suggest to find ways to reduce cost instead of cutting programs, teachers or increasing tax. For example, it's very warm, or hot inside my daughter's school building in winter. I'm wondering how many degree it's set by the heating system in winter? How about decreasing the temperature by 1-2c to reduce cost?

Thank you

Howard county resident
Yongmei Pan, PhD

5339 Sunny Field Ct
Ellicott City, 21043

Best Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jiankang Jiang <jiankangj@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 10:54 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District #4, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the most heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices and the property tax rate. The property tax increased much faster than family income. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,
Jian-kang Jiang

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Guo <jenniejguo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 10:11 PM
To: CouncilMail; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in Howard County, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,

Jennifer Guo

Sayers, Margery

From: Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 9:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb
Subject: Fire tax increase should be temporary (1-3 yrs)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council member,

My address is 5728 whistling winds walk, clarksville, md 21029 (District 4).

I heard that a fire tax increase has been proposed to build two new fire stations. The painful thing living in Maryland is that proposed tax stays forever. Building two fire station is a short-term project. So once the project is finished, the tax rate should go back to the current percentage. For example, if the tax increase is 34%, then it should be one year only. If fire tax increase is 17%, then it should be two years only. If fire tax increase is 11%, then it should be 3 years only. please work with the county executive to have a plan that will impose minimal impact on residents.

Best regards,

Lin Zhou

Sayers, Margery

From: Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 9:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb
Subject: Fire tax increase is too high

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Member,

I have been living in District #4 for 7 years and I voted for you last November. I understand that funds are needed to build the two new fire stations. And the proposed fire tax increase is a shocking 34% increase. It is beyond what we can bear. However, there are different ways to fund this project to reduce the increase, for example, partially funded by Capital Budget, issue bonds. Further, the two fire stations do not need to be built at the same time. We should build them one at a time, therefore, the fire tax increase don't have to increase at once. Please work with other council members on this matter on our behalf.

Best regards,

Lin Zhou

5728 whistling winds walk
Clarksville, MD 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 9:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council members,

As a resident in District #4, I am writing to express my opposition to the fire tax increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carrying extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,

Lin Zhou

Sayers, Margery

From: yi han <hanyi1990@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 6:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel
Subject: Fire tax increase is too high

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

I've been living District #5 for 3 years. I understand funds are needed to build the two new fire stations. And the proposed fire tax increase is a shocking 34% increase. It is beyond what we can bear. However, there are different ways to fund this project to reduce the increase, for example, partially funded by Capital Budget, issue bonds. Further, the two fire stations don't need to be built at the same time. We should build them one at a time, therefore, the fire tax increase don't have to increase at once. Please work with other councilmen/women on this matter on our behalf.

Best,

Sayers, Margery

From: Sarah Bi <zhou_sarah@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 4:11 PM
To: CouncilMail; Jung, Deb
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in Howard County District #4, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire tax increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country. Howard county residents are carrying extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,
Sarah Bi

Sayers, Margery

From: Sufang Li <lisufang@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 4:06 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Oppose to fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident in District #5, I'm writing to express my opposition to the fire increase. Maryland is already one of the heavily taxed states in the country and Howard county residents are carry extreme high property taxes due to high home prices. If the tax increases and will cause heavy burden for our residents. We might be unable to live in this county for a long time. Please vote against the fire tax increase!

Best Regards,

Sufang Li

Sayers, Margery

From: Junye Chen <junye.chen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 3:07 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Against fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Sir or Madam,

I strongly against fire tax increase in Howard county!!!

More resources should be added in elementary education!!!

Junye Chen

Sayers, Margery

From: Minzhuan Gong <minzhuan_gong@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 2:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on the fire tax increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

May 21, 2019

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

George Howard Building
1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

2019 MAY 24 PM 1:51
AK JF MS

To: Howard County Council Members

Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services (HCDFRS) Chief Christine Ulhorn recently defended County Executive Ball's proposed 6 cent increase in the Howard County fire and rescue tax. Unfortunately, many of the arguments she presents are not the reality of call volume and type in Howard County. Instead, Chief Ulhorn is planning a virtual doubling of the Howard County DFRS budget in the next 6 years, adding 5 new fire stations to the existing 12, and requiring significant additional fire tax increases to fund a \$158m deficit.

HCDFRS does not run many fire calls; recently posted April statistics show 2200+ total responses, of which only 20 were fire-related. Twenty. March had 30. Fewer calls were actual fires; most are odor of smoke, burned food on the stove, or an overheated appliance. To be fair, HCDFRS fire apparatus also responds on auto accidents and natural gas leaks, but mostly they respond to medical calls with the medic units. We simply don't have much fire in Howard County.

What we do have are calls for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and that volume is growing as Chief Ulhorn states. EMS calls are driven in part by population growth in general, and in particular by an aging population and the introduction of nursing homes and senior care facilities. Howard County's growth numbers are fueled by this type of growth, something that former Chief John Butler began responsibly addressing with additional medic units at existing stations. The vast majority of EMS call volume falls into the 7AM-7PM time period. So why build 5 more fire stations to handle <1 fire-related call per day on average when the problem can be better addressed by increasing supplemental EMS units during daytime hours? One idea might be to have roving medic units that back-fill areas of the county when other units are out on calls. This could be done with minimal staffing (day shifts), and limited capital investment in ambulance units rather than building expensive new fire stations and adding fire apparatus and crews that are not needed.

Chief Ulhorn's plans for the future of HCDFRS are just the tip of a very large financial iceberg that will wreak havoc on Howard County taxpayers if not questioned and held in check. The time to do that for this year's budget cycle has probably passed, and the current 6-7 cent increase may well be needed to cover current shortfalls. The key, though, is to ask the tough questions of HCDFRS *before* multi-year commits are made that will ratchet up the fire tax significantly to cover expenditures over the next several years that are both unnecessary and financially irresponsible.

I would be happy to meet with you individually or collectively to discuss further. Thank you.



Tim Titcomb
1950 St. James Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104
(410) 489-5622

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 86-2019

BY: David Yungmann

Legislative Day No. 7

Date: 5/29/19

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment phases in the increase to the Fire Tax.)

1 On page 1, strike line 29 and substitute:

2 "Fiscal Year 2020 rate per \$100 assessed value ~~[[17.6]]19.6 cents~~

3 FISCAL YEAR 2021 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE 21.6 CENTS

4 FISCAL YEAR 2022 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE 23.6 CENTS"

5

6 Also on page 1, strike lines 31 and 32 and on page 2 strike line 1 and substitute:

7 "Fiscal Year 2020 rate per \$100 assessed value for operating personal property and operating

8 real property owned by public utilities ~~[[44]]49 cents~~

9 FISCAL YEAR 2021 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE FOR OPERATING PERSONAL PROPERTY AND

10 OPERATING REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES 54 CENTS

11 FISCAL YEAR 2022 RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE FOR OPERATING PERSONAL PROPERTY AND

12 OPERATING REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES 59 CENTS"

13

14 This Amendment is contingent on the adoption of Amendment 11 to Council Bill 24-2019.

