

CB59-2022



**HOWARD COUNTY PROFESSIONAL  
FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION  
I.A.F.F. LOCAL 2000**

5397 TWIN KNOLLS ROAD • SUITE 16 • COLUMBIA, MD 21045

Monday, September 19, 2022

Chairman Opel Jones  
Vice Chair Christiana Rigby  
Councilwoman Liz Walsh  
Councilwoman Deb Jung  
Councilman David Yungmann

Re: **SUPPORT** for Council Bill 59-2022

Dear County Council,

On behalf of the Howard County Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 2000, I submit this letter of support for Council Bill 59-2022.

This bill represents the completion of recent discussions between County Administration and our leadership, which culminated in the extension of our current collective bargaining agreement by one year (FY 2024), and an increase in the planned cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) scheduled for December 2022.

Aside from an increase in the COLA scheduled for December 2022 from 2% to 3%, the addition of FY 2024 will bring about a 5% COLA in December 2023. Also a part of this agreement is language which will permit the County and the Union to continue discussions and efforts toward a reduction in average work hours. This effort is a necessary step toward ensuring that the compensation and average work hours of our members is competitive with our regional counterparts.

Our membership approved the extension during ratification voting the first week of July.

With this in mind, we request a favorable vote on Council Bill 59-2022.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Ruehl, President  
IAFF Local 2000