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February 19, 2020

Chief Brian S Geraci
State Fire Marshal
Maryland Department of State Police
Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal
1201 Reisterstown Road, Building C
Pikesville, MD 21208

Dear Chief Brian S Geraci:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my support of House Bill 0823. I have served as a fire and life safety professional for more than 30 years. I began my career with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue (MCFR) in August of 1989, and I retired from MCFR on January 1, 2015. During my tenure with MCFR, I witnessed countless one- and two-family dwelling fires, with and without sprinkler protection.

Unfortunately, throughout my career as a firefighter I have witnessed greater damage to properties that did not have fire sprinklers installed. Consequently, I witnessed substantially greater injury or fatalities to individuals in dwelling units without fire sprinkler protection than dwelling units that had sprinklers installed.

I realize that many developer/builders are concerned with the cost of installing residential fire sprinklers. However, many studies including studies by NFPA have found the average cost nationally to install fire sprinklers amounts to \$1.61 per sprinklered square foot.

It would be my desire to see every new residential dwelling unit in the State of Maryland protected with residential fire sprinklers: THEY SAVE LIVES!

Respectfully,

Carl Young
Fire Marshal
Planning and Development Services
City of Rockville