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February 7, 2022

SB 132 - Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 132 - **Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer**.

The intent of the original section of this bill was to create enabling legislation for County and Municipal corporations to give public safety officers a tax credit on their properties of up to a maximum of \$2500. As of today, very few Counties and/or Municipal Corporations have actually enacted into law this tax credit in their jurisdictions for their Public Safety Officers.

The change that would occur under SB 132 would give the Counties and Municipal Corporations a lot more flexibility in determining the amount of the credit and the actual definition of “Public Safety Officer”. If SB132 is enacted, it will allow for the setting of a credit amount that is best/affordable for the jurisdiction itself. It will also give the Counties and Municipal Corporations the ability to decide who the actual credit will go to as they would be able to set the credit limit and define the term “Public Safety Officer” for the purposes of their individual jurisdictions credit. As currently written, the current law does not allow for this, and instead sets in place a set amount and definition for the entire State which does not take into account the differing financial abilities of each County and Municipal Corporation nor their specific needs/reasons/abilities to create incentives for their public safety employees. If SB132 were enacted, it is our belief, that more Counties and Municipal Corporations would be willing to give this credit to their Public Safety Officers.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **Senate Bill 132 - Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer**.

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,
2nd Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George’s County