

## BALTIMORE COUNTY FEDERATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

John Ripley BCFPE President

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March 8, 2022

RE: FAVORABLE-SB751: 911 Center Specialists reclassified as First Responders.

Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

First, I want to thank Senator Simonaire and Delegate Kipke for their work on this legislation.

My name is John Ripley and I am the President of The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees who represents approximately 1500 Baltimore County Employees including 250 active Baltimore County 911 Center Employees. Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform these highly technical jobs demonstrating countless acts of sacrifice and commitment to Public Safety. We can have the very best police and fire departments but without the 911 Center Professional, police and fire would falter. 911 Center Employees are the "TRUE" First Responders and this bill would correctly reclassify them as First Responders.

Because of this, I urge you to support **SB751**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President John Ripley

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