



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President
Jim Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney
Herbert Weiner

Ways and Means Committee
Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Room 131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 14, 2026

RE: House Bill 211 - Baltimore County – Property Tax Credit – Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34 (SUPPORT)

Chair Wilkins and Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Jim Kruszynski, President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #34. I represent the nearly 600 active and retired members of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police. Our FOP Lodge is located at 730 Wampler Rd. in Baltimore County, Maryland.

As a nonprofit funded primarily by member dues, we support House Bill 211, which would authorize Baltimore County to grant a property tax credit on our real property. This relief would benefit us significantly, as we own almost 9 acres of land and, as a nonprofit, property taxes can be burdensome for our organization.

Our location provides substantial benefits to the Middle River and Baltimore County community:

- We host numerous annual events, including Breakfast with Santa, Community Bonfires, and Trunk-or-Treat, designed to bring the community together. These events all sell out every year.
- We conduct two large toy drives annually (including Christmas in July), using our building as a year-round drop-off and staging hub. Over the past nine years, we have donated approximately 5,000 toys to Mount Washington Pediatrics Hospital, which has recognized us as one of its largest contributors.
- The Baltimore County Police Tactical Unit frequently uses our facilities to stage and operate command posts during critical incidents and search warrants (often with minimal notice), providing safe, discreet parking and access during extended operations, thereby benefiting public safety.
- We provide free use to the Maryland Transportation Authority Police (whose headquarters and training academy are located in Baltimore County) for essential training, including ongoing multi-week Standardized Field Sobriety Test sessions, Leadership in Police Organizations courses, and other programs when their headquarters is unavailable—enhancing officer development and public safety.
- The Police Emerald Society of Baltimore (a 501(c)(3)) uses our facilities free of charge several times a year for monthly meetings, fundraisers for officers/fallen officers' families, holiday parties, and social gatherings, providing a central, well-maintained venue for statewide members.

We are always willing to help our community: Next month, we are donating our hall at no charge for a Baltimore County Department of Public Works public hearing requested by the county. All these efforts greatly serve the citizens of Middle River and Baltimore County, a benefit we are proud to provide.

FOP Lodge 34, along with its membership, would greatly benefit from this property tax credit legislation, allowing us to continue serving the Middle River community for years to come. Therefore, on behalf of the nearly 600 members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #34, I thank you for your support and your **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 211. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Jim Kruszynski
President
Fraternal Order of Police
Lodge 34