

# Email Requesting Increasing Paid Staff at Branchville Fire Station

Email sent to Chief Barksdale of the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department requesting an increase in paid staff for the Branchville Fire Station.

**From:** John Krouse <[johnkrouse@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkrouse@yahoo.com)>

**To:** [bmbarksdale@co.pg.md.us](mailto:bmbarksdale@co.pg.md.us) <[bmbarksdale@co.pg.md.us](mailto:bmbarksdale@co.pg.md.us)>

**Cc:** Lisa Ealley <[lealley@msn.com](mailto:lealley@msn.com)>; Judy Blumenthal <[judyblumenthal@earthlink.net](mailto:judyblumenthal@earthlink.net)>; Arelis Perez <[myrealtorarelisperez@gmail.com](mailto:myrealtorarelisperez@gmail.com)>; Mary Cook <[marycookcp@gmail.com](mailto:marycookcp@gmail.com)>; Christine Nagel <[cnagel\\_70@yahoo.com](mailto:cnagel_70@yahoo.com)>; Dannielle Glaros <[dmglaros@co.pg.md.us](mailto:dmglaros@co.pg.md.us)>; Mary A. Lehman <[malehman@co.pg.md.us](mailto:malehman@co.pg.md.us)>; Janeen S. Miller <[jsmiller@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:jsmiller@collegeparkmd.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 7, 2018, 12:03:04 PM EDT

**Subject:** Concerns re Branchville VFD Staffing and Emergency Response in North College Park

Dear Chief Barksdale,

I am writing to express concerns of the North College Park Community Association (NCPCA) regarding non-volunteer staffing at Branchville Volunteer Fire Company. For several years now, NCPCA has requested updates by the leadership of Branchville VFD regarding staffing and emergency response from the Branchville station, and at the May 10 NCPCA meeting, Chief Eric Gove and President Jeramie Jordan responded to our invitation to present and discuss their concerns.

I have lived in the Hollywood section of College Park since 1994, and like many of our residents I have come to depend upon the fast emergency response of Branchville. Many residents are now fearful that our community is not being adequately served by our fire and emergency response network, and at the May 10 NCPCA meeting it became clear that the leadership of Branchville VFD believes that two engines and two ambulances should be staffed and made available for response from Branchville at all times.

I must confess that many of the NCPCA membership (including myself) are not very well-versed in the nuances of fire and EMS management, but news of fatalities like the May 12 fire in Beltsville, and the proximity of our community to major accident sites such as the Capital Beltway and potential terrorist targets such as the Greenbelt Metro Station make many residents of North College Park residents nervous.

The Branchville VFD has been a key part of our safety net since the 1920's, and it seems to many members of NCPCA that maintaining adequate staffing at Branchville is not as high a priority as we believe that it should be. I would like your assurance that keeping Branchville fully staffed with a dependable mix of career and volunteer fire and ambulance responders will

be a priority of your office, and that our community will be adequately protected even in the event of major incident or a multiple-site emergency.

Thank you very much for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,

John Krouse  
President, NCPCA

cc. Hon. Mary Lehman, Prince George's County Council Member, District 1  
Hon. Danielle Glaros, Prince George's County Council Member, District 3  
Hon. Mayor Patrick Wojahn and College Park City Councilmembers