



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

18345 Colonel Henry K. Douglas Drive
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Hagerstown, MD 21740
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Colonel William M. Pallozzi
Secretary

C. Daniel Davis, Jr.
Chairman

August 23, 2016

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor, State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis MD 21401

Honorable Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the members of the Fire Prevention Commission, I am pleased to provide you the Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016.

Should you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning activities of the Commission, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

C. Daniel Davis, Jr.
Chairman

CDD:hr

cc: Colonel William M. Pallozzi
State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci
Sarah Albert, Dept. of Legislative Services

Enclosure



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2016

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-201:

The State Fire Prevention Commission was established in 1964 and consists of nine (9) members appointed to a maximum of two five-year terms by the Secretary of the State Police, with the approval of the Governor in accordance with Public Safety Article Title 6-201. The following members served on the Commission in FY 2016:

C. Daniel Davis, Jr. Chairman Term Expired June 30, 2020*	<i>Southern Maryland</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>
Mark. F. Hubbard Vice Chairman Term Expires June 30, 2017*	<i>Central Maryland</i> <i>Career Fire Company</i>
Mark. A. Bilger Term Expires June 30, 2019	<i>Western Maryland</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>
Timothy F. Dayton Term Expired June 30, 2014**	<i>Western Maryland</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>
K. C. Harrington Term Expires June 30, 2018*	<i>Eastern Shore</i> <i>Building Contractor</i>
Martin J. LePore Term Expired June 30, 2016*	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Industry Representative</i>
Joseph L. Scheffey Term Expires June 30, 2017	<i>Washington-Metropolitan</i> <i>Industry Representative</i>
Anthony J. Spencer Term Expires June 30, 2019*	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Member of the Public</i>
Stacy N. Welch Term Expires June 30, 2017	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Architect/Engineer</i>
Richard L. Yinger Term Expires June 30, 2018*	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>

*Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

**Second term expired – Served until replaced by Commissioner Bilger

The Fire Prevention Commission may be contacted as follows:
Maryland State Police/Western Operations Center
18345 Colonel H.K. Douglas Drive, Suite 240
Hagerstown MD 21740
Telephone: 301-766-3899
Toll-Free: 877-890-0199
Fax: 301-766-3889
E-Mail: mssp.sfpc@maryland.gov
Website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>
Secretary: Heidi Ritchie

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-204:

The Commission is mandated to hold a minimum of six regular meetings every year. A quorum was achieved at all meetings. All members met the attendance requirements. Public meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted at the Commission's website:

<http://sfpc.mdsp.org>

FISCAL YEAR ATTENDANCE ROSTER						
MEETING DATES LOCATION & MEMBERS	8/20/2015 Laurel	10/15/15 Laurel	12/17/15 Hagerstown	2/18/16 Annapolis	4/21/16 Laurel	6/23/15 Ocean City
BILGER	NA	P	P	P	P	P
DAVIS	P	P	P	P	P	P
DAYTON	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
HARRINGTON	P	P	A	P	P	P
HUBBARD	P	P	P	P	P	A
LEPORE	A	P	P	P	P	P
SCHEFFEY	NA	P	A	P	P	P
SPENCER	P	P	A	P	P	P
WELCH	P	A	P	P	P	P
YINGER	P	P	P	P	P	P

P=Present A=Absent NA=NOT APPLICABLE (term expired or not yet appointed)

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-205:

The Commission is authorized to make recommendations to the Secretary of State Police about the daily operations of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, including recommendations about budget and personnel matters. During the course of the year, through reports of Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci and others, the Commission has become increasingly concerned about the lack of funding for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Sworn fire and explosive investigators and civilian fire safety inspectors are leaving the agency to seek employment in other jurisdictions offering better salaries. The salary inequities with comparable positions in surrounding jurisdictions makes job recruitment and retention for qualified investigators, inspectors, fire protection engineers, and administrative staff difficult. A once funded and much needed information technology position was defunded and the Fire Marshal continues to seek approval to have it reinstated. Half of the agency's fleet of vehicles has over 200,000 miles and thirteen percent has over 300,000 miles. The lack of funding to replace high mileage vehicles is nonexistent which creates concern not only for the safety of the drivers but also for the effective performance of the mandated duties of the agency. In the past decades the agency's bomb squad division has obtained critical equipment such as robots, x-ray machines, and specialized vehicles through federal grants. This equipment is becoming aged and in disrepair at a time when federal grant funds are dwindling and state funding is lacking. State-of-the art and well maintained equipment and vehicles are a necessity to properly respond to emergencies and threats. The commission has attempted to make these personnel, salary, vehicle, equipment, and funding concerns known to the Secretary of the State Police and legislators and will continue to do so in an effort to obtain proper budgetary funding for the effective operation of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-501:

The Commission is empowered to hear appeals filed by a person who is aggrieved by an order or decision of the State Fire Marshal or his designee in the course of enforcing the State Fire Prevention Code. The commission received three appeals in Fiscal Year 2016.

Case 15-02 Tim Theodoropoulos – Baltimore County

The petitioner appealed the State Fire Marshal's removal of a letter of reprimand from the file of a licensed sprinkler contractor. Based on testimony provided, the Commission remanded the case back to the State Fire Marshal for further investigation. After reviewing and deliberating the re-investigation, the Commission concluded the Fire Marshal did not abuse his discretion in removing the letter of reprimand and the appeal was denied.

Case 15-03 Donna Pinder – Dorchester County

The petitioner appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to correct various violations of the State Fire Prevention Code in an apartment building. The parties reached a mutual agreement to improve the fire safety of the building and the appeal was withdrawn.

Case 16-01 Family Fire Service and Plumbing – Montgomery County

The petitioner appealed the State Fire Marshal's denial of a fire sprinkler contractor's license. The petitioner provided the required documents to the State Fire Marshal to obtain the license and the appeal was withdrawn.

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-205:

The Commission is mandated to promote and conduct seminars, conferences, workshops and meetings at least once each year to inform the public and firefighting personnel of the latest techniques in fire prevention programs and procedures, life safety measures, changes in the State Fire Prevention Code, and development of improved fire and life safety goals.

Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference

The Fire Prevention Commission co-sponsored the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference held September 29, 2015, in Laurel, Maryland. This annual conference offers a variety of safety oriented workshops presented by some of the nation's leading fire and emergency services professionals. Approximately 250-300 persons attend this annual event, including several Commission members. Commissioner Martin LePore served on the 2015 Conference Steering Committee. Commissioner Mark Bilger will serve on the 2016 Conference Steering Committee.

State Fire Prevention Code Update Training

The Commission sponsored four training seminars to provide state and local fire and building code enforcement authorities with an overview of amendments to the State Fire Prevention Code and changes in the 2015 editions of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and NFPA 1 Fire Code. Approximately 400 persons attended the seminars held at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in College Park. The National Fire Protection Association supported the training by providing instructors and course materials.

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-206:

The Commission is empowered to promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion and to hold public hearings pertaining to such regulations. Code of Maryland Regulations as promulgated by the Commission may be viewed at the Commission's website:

<http://sfpc.mdsp.org>

COMAR 29.06.01 and 29.06.07 Fire Prevention Code and Regulations for Ground-Based Sparkling Devices

With the publication of the 2015 editions of NFPA 1 Fire Code and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, the Commission delegated a committee to review changes in these national standards. Commissioners Anthony Spencer and Stacy Welch served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other local fire and building code authorities. The Commission unanimously voted to accept the committee's proposal to amend the regulations. A public hearing was held October 15, 2015, and the amendments were adopted effective January 1, 2016.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Throughout the year, Commission members attend and participate in a variety of activities and serve on committees involving fire prevention education, fire and emergency services, and code enforcement.

Mid-Atlantic Association Of State Fire Commissions

The Mid-Atlantic Association of State Fire Commissions is comprised of fire commissions from twelve (12) member states for the purpose of sharing and promoting state and national goals related to fire prevention and education. The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia each host the annual conference on a rotating basis. Representatives discuss a variety of topics related to fire code enforcement issues, proactive initiatives for automatic sprinkler system installations, funding sources, firefighter recruitment and training, and fire prevention education. Due to budget restrictions no conference was held in 2015.

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Chairman Davis, Commissioner Yinger, Commissioner Dayton, and Commissioner Bilger serve on a variety of committees under the auspices of this association. The association membership is comprised of volunteer departments from throughout the State whose mission is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland. Several commission members attended and participated in the association's annual convention in Ocean City. Commissioner Dayton received the Maryland State Firemen's Association's Administrator of the Year Award and the Firefighter of the Year Award.

Allegany-Garrett County Fire And Rescue Association

Commissioner Dayton is a member of this association which serves, promotes, advocates and represents the interests of thirty-seven volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical services companies in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

National Fire Protection Association

Commissioner Stacy Welch was honored to be selected to serve as a member of the National Fire Protection Association's Board of Directors. NFPA board members are chosen from various disciplines and backgrounds and are elected based on experience in business, finance, or administration; respect of peers; respect as a member of the safety community; commitment to the Association's goals; and appreciation for the relationship NFPA must maintain with the changing needs of society. Commissioner Welch is Senior Director of Fire Protection and Life Safety for the Marriott International.