



## Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association

Patrick Hassler, President  
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Darby Byrd, Secretary  
Joseph Bradburn, Treasurer  
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May 25, 2023

TO: Departments and Members of SMVFA

RE: Voting at MSFA Convention on name change

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) called a special meeting to discuss the letter received from the MSFA LEADERSHIP. The letter was addressed to the State Senator that had concerns about the word firemen's in the MSFA name. The letter had an overture tone that actions could possibly be imposed on all departments if the name was not changed. This action would affect all departments.

Several points were brought up and discussed at length. There were concerns about how MSFA leadership is handling the situation. There hasn't been any clear communication or direction on this matter for the last three years; and MSFA leadership has not effectively provided clear and concise direction on the matter.

SMVFA recognizes that the 40 departments in the association have the right to vote however their members direct. We encourage all of you to share this information and this letter.

We as an Association feel that all ballots should be marked **"Against"**

Respectively,

Patrick Hassler, President