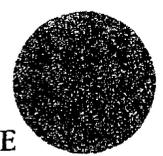




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850



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MEMORANDUM

March 15, 1996

*[Handwritten scribbles]*

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RECEIVED

Douglas M. Duncan  
County Executive

TO: Gail Ewing, President  
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive

SUBJECT: Emergency Bill on Fire and Rescue Collective Bargaining

I am submitting the attached emergency bill for the Council's consideration. If enacted, the bill will implement the Charter amendment adopted by the voters on November 8, 1994, by providing by law for binding arbitration of bargaining impasses with the certified representative of career fire fighters. It will also add a new article to Chapter 33 of the Code to provide a separate collective bargaining framework for professional fire and rescue employees. The Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 1664, was consulted in drafting the legislation.

I believe that a separate collective bargaining law is appropriate because collective bargaining for the Fire/Rescue bargaining unit is a hybrid of the features that are contained in the other two collective bargaining laws. The scope of bargaining for these employees is the same as the scope of bargaining for the OPT and SLT bargaining units under the County collective bargaining law in Article VII of Chapter 33. However, the impasse resolution procedures which provide for binding arbitration are more akin to those in the Police labor relations law in Article V, but include new language to improve the process. Also, the creation of a separate law will allow the appointment of a Labor Relations Administrator solely for this bargaining unit. The individual appointed to this position, because he or she will be concerned solely with the administration of the law for this unit, will become expert at dealing with the issues which are peculiar to this unit and which arise from the employees' working conditions and the Department's operations.

DD:cmr

Attachments