



LOCAL 1664

Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Ass'n., Inc.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN J. SPARKS, PRESIDENT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY
CAREER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IAFF LOCAL 1664

PUBLIC HEARING - BILL 13-01
April 17, 2001

President Ewing, County Council members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on Bill 13 – 01 Collective Bargaining for Fire/ Rescue Employees. We applaud County Executive Doug Duncan for recognizing the importance of extending collective bargaining rights to Fire/ Rescue Lieutenants and Captains. Representation for these employees is long overdue.

As you know, our collective bargaining law restricts the subjects that represented employees may bargain over.
These subjects are:

- Salary and Wages
- Pension and other retirement benefits
- Insurance, leave, holiday and vacations
- Hours and working conditions
- Settlement of grievances
- Matters affecting health and safety and
- The amelioration of the effect on employees when the exercise of employer rights cause a loss of existing jobs

These subjects are just as important to Lieutenants and Captains as they are to Master Fire Fighters and Fire Fighter Rescuers. None of these subjects impact the job duties and job requirements of any rank in the fire/ rescue service. In fact, when our Local negotiates changes that affect these subjects they are passed through to Lieutenants and Captains. Wage increases, changes to retirement, pensions, insurance, leave, hours of work and working conditions, they mean the same to each of us regardless of our rank. The only difference is in the settlement of grievances, where they currently follow a different process.

Currently there are 191 combined Lieutenants and Captains. Of those 191 personnel, 118 of them are and have been members of our Local for years, paying dues voluntarily. They pay their dues even though they are not “officially” represented however, knowingly aware that they will reap the benefits of the collective bargaining process. It is time to bring them out of the closet and to extend the basic rights of representation to these ranks as those employees that they work side by side with currently enjoy.

Please note: the website printed below is incorrect; it should read as www.iafflocal1664.com.

We ask that you support Bill 13 – 01. Thank you very much.