

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



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To Whom It May Concern,

The Maryland State Firemen's Convention and Conference has been an event held in Ocean City for over 70 years and we have been blessed to have been continually successful in the number of participants that we have in attendance. This includes members of our 360+ volunteer fire departments from around the State, teams that work diligently to build the Convention from the ground up, our Officers and committee members, and numerous fire service colleagues, both from Maryland and from across the country.

Unfortunately, this year, we find ourselves in an unprecedented time, and as a result of this COVID-19 Pandemic, we were faced with the very tough decision to eliminate any large-scale gatherings of our membership due to Social Distancing requirements. We will be conducting the required convention business of the association virtually and plan to return to Ocean City in 2021 starting on June 19. We understand that we are not the only group forced to eliminate our trip to the ocean this year and that the City has reported that all large gathering events in June have been cancelled.

We are hopeful that all community members throughout Ocean City understand our need to make this decision for your personal safety and ours, and will work with our members who had arranged for lodging this June to allow them to cancel or change their reservations to next summer. We value the relationship that we have with the many hotels, motels, condominiums, rental properties and resorts, in and around Ocean City and realize this decision affects all of us.

Please reach out to me if there are any questions or concerns regarding this decision and we look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Respectfully,

Kate Tomanelli

Kate Tomanelli
Executive Director, Maryland State Firemen's Association

Cc: Town of Ocean City
Ocean City, Hotel, Motel and Restaurant Association
Coastal Association of Realtors of Maryland, Inc.