



Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

James S. Cheng
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

William C. Shelton
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

May 19, 2010

Mr. Michael T. Reilly, Chairman
Virginia Fire Services Board
10700 Page Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Chairman Reilly,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding fees and alternative ways to consider fee increases for the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO). Your letter was discussed in depth at the meeting of the Board of Housing and Community Development on May 17, 2010.

As you are aware, the Board is presently considering amendments to both the Uniform Statewide Building Code and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, including provisions for fee increases requested by the SFMO. Through the regulatory process, the Board is able to have access to a broad range of public input from affected and interested parties into all regulatory provisions under consideration. The Board is currently considering comments it has received regarding the proposed fee increases.

Following a lengthy discussion at the recent meeting, the Board decided to maintain the current system of considering fees during the regulatory code update cycle. A motion to maintain the current system was made and agreed to by the Board, with only one member voting against the motion. Additionally, the Board agreed that all fees within each regulation should be considered during the cycle and fee adjustments would be made in view of new or amended regulatory requirements, public input and other economic factors. This approach would not preclude amending the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, including allowable fees, at any time during the three-year cycle if, based on information presented to it, the Board determines a change is needed. The Board is aware of financial demands upon the SFMO and pledges to work with the Department of Fire Programs to assure that fees will be considered as needs arise.

Partners for Better Communities



www.dhcd.virginia.gov

Mr. Michael T. Reilly, Chairman
May 19, 2010
Page Two

Thank you for the information you provided. I look forward to working with you on these and other issues as we continue work to develop building and fire code regulations.

Sincerely,



Tom Fleury, Chairman
Board of Housing and Community Development

tf/sc/ljm

cc: Mr. Willie G. Shelton ✓
Mr. Bill Shelton
Mr. Brian Mullins

Virginia Department of Fire Programs

MAY 21 2010

Administration