



# Maryland Fire Marshals Committee

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March 14, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB0907– Fire Protection and Prevention – Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarm-  
Requirements (Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act)

Dear Senator Feldman and Senator Kagan,

The Maryland Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee is made up of representatives from Fire Marshal offices across the State of Maryland. We work in collaboration with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office to advocate for strong and effective fire prevention and life safety measures to protect the citizens of the State of Maryland.

We are writing you today to submit our strong support for SB0907. Fire safety protections like these could have helped slow the fire spread in the devastating fire last month at the high-rise apartment complex in Silver Spring, MD that displaced over 400 residents, led to 20 being hospitalized (to include firefighters) and caused the tragic death of Melanie Diaz and her two dogs. The Maryland State Fire Marshal in 2019 highlighted the dangers of living in high-rise buildings without sprinkler systems, which have been shown to reduce fire deaths by up to 87%, but currently older buildings are not required to have these sprinkler systems in place.

Senate Bill 0907 would make significant lifesaving improvements during a fire emergency and would protect tenants living in older, high-rise apartment buildings. We believe this legislation is urgent to prevent further tragedies like the one experienced recently in Silver Spring and is critical to the safety of the citizens of our great state. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we respectfully ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for a favorable report for SB0907.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Custer  
Chairman Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee