

Robert F. Cherry, Jr.
President
Fraternal Order of Police
Lodge #3
242 West 29th Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Bob Sledgeski
President
International Association of
Firefighters Local 734
1202 Ridgely Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Stephan G. Fugate
President
International Association of
Firefighters Local 964
1030 South Linwood Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224

January 25, 2011

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
U.S. Conference of Mayors
1620 Eye Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20006

Elizabeth B. Kautz
President
U.S. Conference of Mayors
1620 Eye Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: 2011 U.S. Conference of Mayors

Mr. Cochran:

This letter is a courtesy on behalf of the Baltimore Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3 and the International Association of Firefighters' Local 734 and Fire Officers' Local 964. One of our duties is to actively represent Baltimore City public safety personnel and serve as a voice for positive change. We write to inform you that Baltimore's off-duty firefighters and police officers intend to exercise our right to picket and protest at the 2011 U.S. Conference of Mayors in Baltimore. In support of our concerns, national and statewide fire and police organizations are also expected to attend.

These actions are in response to the public safety policies of Baltimore's interim Mayor, the Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Since taking office, Mayor Rawlings-Blake has repeatedly shown a lack of support for this city's police officers and firefighters. The Mayor has stripped pension benefits from current employees as well as new hires, pushed through a wage reduction/furlough plan on both departments, and refused to show support for or confidence in her Police Department in Baltimore's recent friendly fire tragedy. Her actions have created a severe loss of morale, an exodus of seasoned police officers and firefighters, rotating closings of firehouses, and a shortage of medic workers, among other things. We aim to raise awareness of these issues and communicate the negative long-term effects of recent policy decisions.

The residents of Baltimore City are our priority. Baltimore police and firefighters stand by their oath to protect Baltimore citizens and their families. Our hope is to have the Mayor and City Council reconsider their decisions and stand with Baltimore's fire and police personnel again on issues of public safety.

We want to courteously inform you of our plans in ample time so you may make the appropriate preparations and understand what to expect. We assure you that our protest will be peaceful and our members will not be disruptive. We look forward to working with you to provide a safe and successful conference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Cherry at (410) 243-9141, Bob Sledgeski at (410) 234-0734, or Stephan Fugate at (410) 276-6964.

Regards,

Robert F. Cherry, Jr.
President

Bob Sledgeski
President

Stephan G. Fugate
President

cc. The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore City
The Honorable Bernard "Jack" Young, Baltimore City Council President