



# BARRY GLASSMAN

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2020

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## **Harford County Executive Glassman Waives 2020 Requirement for Volunteer Fire & EMS Retirement Program Due to COVID-19**

**BEL AIR, Md.**, (May 28, 2020) - Harford County Executive Barry Glassman today waived this year's point-requirement for fire and EMS volunteers working toward their retirement benefits in the county's Length of Service Award Program, or LOSAP.

LOSAP is a vital recruitment and retention tool for volunteer first responders. To qualify, participants must earn 50 points per year for a total of 25 years through activities including trainings and public events. Because many of these activities have been canceled this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, County Executive Glassman issued an executive order to waive the 50-point requirement and deem all participants qualified for the year October 2019 to September 2020.

County Executive Glassman is a former EMT with the Level Volunteer Fire Company and an honoree in the Maryland State Firemen's Association Hall of Fame.

"Our volunteer firefighters and EMTs are on the front lines in emergencies and the LOSAP program helps us attract and retain these critical first responders," County Executive Glassman said. "Waiving this year's requirement will help them continue to earn retirement benefits and stay with Harford County for years to come."

*A copy of the Executive Order is attached.*



*Harford County officials pictured from left: Director of Emergency Services Edward Hopkins, County Executive Barry Glassman and Director of Administration Billy Boniface.*

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-004**

Declaration of 2020 Length of Service Award Points for Volunteer Fire and EMS Personnel

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and EMTs are essential in Harford County for the critical responses in emergencies; and

WHEREAS, One of the most important benefits the County offers the volunteers, and a vital recruitment and retention tool, is the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has required social distancing and the cancellation of many events at the fire houses and as a result many volunteers have been unable to perform functions that would generate the necessary points to obtain a year of service in the LOSAP program; and

WHEREAS, I believe it is critical to ensure the well-being of our volunteers and to encourage continued participation as volunteers.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Barry Glassman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby order that the LOSAP point system requirement for the year October 2019 through September 2020 is hereby waived for all members of volunteer fire companies and ambulance corps and as such each member shall be deemed qualified for LOSAP for the year extending from October 2019 to September 2020.

Section 2. And Be It Further Ordered that this Executive Order shall take effect on the date signed.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of Harford County, Maryland, this 28 day of MAY, 2020.



Barry Glassman

Harford County Executive

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Billy Boniface", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends below the line with a long, sweeping stroke.

Billy Boniface

Director of Administration