



MARYLAND STATE LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

1506 LESLIE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



ISMAEL VINCENT CANALES
STATE PRESIDENT

KENNETH SCHUBERT
SECRETARY
EARL KRATSCHE
TREASURER

September 5, 2017

Mr. Kevin McDonald
Chief
Certificate of Need Division
Center for Health Care Facilities Planning & Development
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Mr. McDonald:

On behalf of the more than twenty thousand retired and active duty law enforcement officers from around the State of Maryland, I am writing to express my support of Seasons Residential Treatment Program. The proposed residential treatment center will help provide communities across the state with better resources to help respond to incidents involving young adults with mental health issues.

In my role as president of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police, I am interested in the issues and working conditions affecting law enforcement officers and concerned about the safety of those officers and the communities they serve. Like many communities around the country, over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number of calls that involve residents with diagnosed and untreated mental health issues. We have also seen an increase in the number of detainees with issues of substance abuse.

The absence of adequate mental health and substance abuse resources in counties including Prince George's County, where the proposed facility will be located, is of great concern to issues around public safety. Our organization supports programs interested in partnering with local law enforcement officers to help build awareness and education and reduce the stigma of mental illness and related disorders.

We support Seasons Residential Treatment Program because we believe the facility will be a great community resource and will help promote mental and public health for all stakeholders. For those residents in need of treatment, we hope this program will ultimately result in more supervised care and less burden on correctional facilities and law enforcement officers often ill-equipped to handle detainees in need of treatment for psychiatric illness.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 443-214-5323.

Sincerely,



Vince Canales

Representing the Professional Police Officers of the State of Maryland