Minutes – Sunday, October 18, 2015 @ 5:00 PM

I. Meeting Opening
   a. Welcome
   b. Call to Order
   c. Roll Call of Board Members

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<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>George Hollingsworth</th>
<th>President</th>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Elaine Gall</td>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Duane Perry</td>
<td>2nd Vice President</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Lee Duckwitz</td>
<td>Past President</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Jeremy Luttrell</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Ernie Little</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Randy Pearce</td>
<td>West Delegate at large</td>
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<td>Travis Wright</td>
<td>East Delegate at large</td>
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<td>Steve Phillips</td>
<td>Division 1 Region Rep</td>
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<td>Gerry Maiatico</td>
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<td>Jimmy Csizmadia</td>
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<td>Shawn Maddox</td>
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<td>Todd Garwood</td>
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<td>Al Johnson</td>
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<td><strong>Vacant</strong></td>
<td>Division 6 Region Rep</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Linda Hale</td>
<td>Division 7 Region Rep</td>
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<td>Ed Altizer</td>
<td>State Fire Marshal</td>
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“X” = Present at meeting

d. Introduction of Guests
   • No guests

II. Presidents Report
   G. Hollingsworth
   • See attached

III. 1st Vice Presidents Report
   Elaine Gall
   • 2015 Fall Conference has 62 registrants. Based on the numbers we are estimating approximate profit of $5,000.00
   • Elaine needs assistance with sponsor signs on tables, 50/50 ticket sales
• Gift certificates for door prize drawings
• Travis Wright has purchased an Apple I-pad for a door prize.

IV. 2nd Vice Presidents Report  
Duane Perry
• On October 15, 2015, DHCD work group met in Richmond to discuss code sections that we didn’t think were enforceable by the fire officials. Questions have arisen about the need of the committee. After discussion the committee started reviewing Chapter 3 of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The committee seemed to have lost focus from original goal of committee.

V. Past Presidents Report  
Lionel Duckwitz
• Not present

VI. Secretary’s Report:  
Jeremy Luttrell
• Reviewed of trial version of web-based application “Wild Apricot”. Spoke about some of the benefits of and hurdles that we have with making the switch. The benefits outweigh the hurdles at this point. We need to confirm some things with the merchant account connection between BB&T and Wild Apricot.

VII. Treasurers Report:  
Ernie Little
• All bills are paid as of today.
• Insurance for the organization is in place from “The Cincinnati Group”. As of today we are covered but waiting on the policy documentation.
• We just paid for the last quarter of 2015 for our Cvent membership service application. Our current cycle with Cvent expires on December 31, 2015.
• Ernie is working with accountant for our audit and the stipend from DHCD for the amount of $6,000 to assist with training.

VIII. East Delegate at large  
Randy Pearce
a. No report at this time. He is working on his email problem.

Region 1  
Steve Philips
Region 2 East  
Jimmy Csizmadia
Region 5  
Al Johnson
Region 7  
Linda Hale

IX. West Delegate at large  
Travis Wright
• Travis discussed area representative communications and possibly using the SFMO for meetings.

Region 2 West  
Gerry Maiatico
Region 3  
Shawn Maddox
Region 4  
Todd Garwood
• Todd has reached out to multiple local and state level fire prevention officers in his region. The most requested things were training classes about blasting and hoarding. Other folks are interested in having training closer to their localities to limit travel time and lodging expenses.
X. Committee Reports

a. Code Review Committee
   George Hollingsworth
   • Fire services board code committee is meeting on 10/23/2015.
   • George and Duane have been attending meetings for region 7.

b. Fire Services Board
   Robby Dawson
   • Robby was not present.

c. Out Reach Committee
   Gerry Maiatico
   • Interested in attending Virginia Fire Chiefs Conference and Virginia Firefighters Association to promote VFPA
   • Motion from Travis Wright to pay hotel fee for Randy Pearce to attend the Governors Housing Conference for two nights stay.
   • Second by Todd Garwood
   • Motion carried by majority vote.

d. Training Committee
   Elaine Gall
   • Elaine will be meeting with Travis and Randy

e. Merchandise Committee
   Jimmy Csizamdia
   • Jimmy advised that the trailer is being moved to Fairfax County for storage.

f. Legislative Committee
   G. Hollingsworth
   • Nothing to report.

g. Bylaws/Trust Agreement Committee
   Duane Perry
   • Nothing to report.
   • Ernie expressed some interest in looking at possibly amending the bylaws to identify an “executive board” of the elected members to allow for quicker votes and business to be handled by a smaller group.

h. Scholarship Committee
   Elaine Gall
   • George would like to see the scholarship to go to members of the organization as opposed to family members of members or other outside population people.

XI. Old Business

Insurance:
   • See Treasurer's Report.

Website and Social Media:
   • Working on possibly converting to new software.

2015 Fall Conference:
   • Instructors and topics are set.
• Vendors – we have multiple vendors that sponsored a table.

XII. New Business

**Develop Committee for position descriptions:**
• George is going to appoint a committee to work on descriptions and responsibilities for board members.

**I.C.C. Chapter of the Year:**
• George would like to put in an application for chapter of the year for Virginia ICC Chapters.

**State Code Development Process:**
• George Hollingsworth presented a drafted letter to Maurice Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Trade as a follow-up letter to Chief Brower's letter from the Loudoun County Fire Department. The letter outlines the issues that need to be addressed in the state code development process for the Uniform Statewide Building Code and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. George requested that the Board review the letter and he would entertain a motion to submit the letter following a majority vote by the Board of Directors.
• The meeting was suspended until 10/20/2015 @ 0830 in the same location.

• At 0830 hours on 10/20/2015 the VFPA Board of Directors.
• Motion – George made a motion to accept the letter to Secretary Jones as presented to the board.
• Second - Duane Perry
• Discuss: Ernie wants to ensure that the letter is speaking on behalf of the entire organization.
• Motion carried by voice vote for George to send the approved letter.

**Association Management Application:**
• Jeremy has been working with a trial version of a web-based Association Management Software that will allow us to save at least $3600 annually by cancelling our current contract with Cvent. Cvent has been good for us over the years but the limitations in Administrator passwords and the steep learning curve for our members and future members necessitates a change to something more user friendly and cost effective.
• Motion: Elaine Gall motioned to go with the Wild Apricot online service.
• Second: Jimmy Csizmadia
• Motion carried by voice vote.

**Projector Light Bulb:**
• Gerry mentioned the digital projector bulb that we had a problem with during conference. Jimmy and Gerry found replacement bulbs at various locations ranging from $70-$275 dollars. George is thinking about the possibility of purchasing
replacement projectors in the near future due to the age of our current units and the high cost of bulb replacement. Will bring information in the future.

**Awards Display Board:**

- Ernie and Gerry are working on building a display board for the Associations trophies and plaques and have a Lifetime Member plaque.
- **Motion:** Ernie little to allow for up to $250 to be spent for purchase of materials for display of our plaques and awards.
- **Second:** Randy Pearce
- **Motion carried by voice vote.**

- The next board meeting will be held in Culpeper in January. The address is 47 James Madison Hwy., Suite 101, Culpeper, Virginia 22701.

- There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on 10/20/2015 @ 0850 hours.
To: Membership of Virginia Fire Prevention Association

From: George Hollingsworth, President
Virginia Fire Prevention Association

Subject: Presidents Report, for the First Quarter 2015

The current board of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association (VFPA) took office on July 1 of this year. The elected board and incumbent Regional Reps met on July 15th at Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) in Glennallen, Virginia. At this meeting the following were appointed as the 7 Regional Rep. Chairs:

- Steve Philips Division 1 Region Rep.
- Gerry Maiatico Division 2 West Region Rep.
- Jimmy Csizmadia Division 2 East Region Rep
- Shawn Maddox Division 3 Region Rep
- Todd Garwood Division 4 Region Rep
- Al Johnson Division 5 Region Rep
- VACANT Division 6 Region Rep
- Linda Hale Division 7 Region Rep

At that meeting those present discussed splitting the Region 2 area since both Jimmy and Gerry would be taking on additional duties. In order to be compliant with the Bi-Laws the 2 positions would be held to one vote until a Bi-Law change was presented and passed at the annual meeting. Over the next week I developed a letter that went out to each appointee outlining the position expectations and a time line projection for the 2015 / 2016 year. Over the next few weeks the signed offer letters were returned and all but Region 6 was filled.

Over the First quarter of the 2015/2016 I have been working on several enhancements to our organization that I will now explain.

- Directly following that July Board Meeting, 1st Vice-President Ellaine Gall and I meet with Virginia stakeholder groups as part of a committee working on improving the Governors Fire Service Awards program. At that meeting all of the stakeholder groups worked seamlessly to develop some ideas on presentation of the awards and how to encourage better participation. Erin Rice from VDFP is currently
out on maternity leave and will most likely put together another meeting when she returns to work. More to come.

- Toward the middle of August I met with the President, Robert Rollston of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) to discuss some training initiatives to get Fire Marshals throughout the Commonwealth better training and to achieve continuity in the training and meet the requirements of tile 27.
- Shortly after the meeting with IAAI we meet with Mr. Melvin Carter from VDFP to discuss the joint ideas from the 2 state wide training groups and get some feedback. I am in the process of putting together a white paper on this subject and feel good about the progress we are making.

- On September 23rd I sent a letter to Mr. Melvin Carter requesting reinstatement of the $5,000 training stipend and a program to provide some training equipment on loan to training organizations providing 1031 and 1033 training. One item requested was computer laptops that would scan attendees to the conference into the computer and eliminate the need for VDFP green sheets at our conferences. Some of the other items are as follows:
  - Smart Boards
  - White Boards
  - Electronic polling counters

I plan on following up with Mr. Carter over the next quarter hopefully having some of these items for the Spring Conference and Annual Business meeting.

- Over the past few months I have been meeting with Jeremy and Gerry to work on a possible replacement for CVENT. Although it seems at every turn we find another obstacle I am confident that we will continue until we find the best system for VFPA.

- Shortly after taking office your board started working on a regional training program to provide local training and consistent training across the Commonwealth. Over the nest quarter I will be attending classes by other training groups across the state in an effort to unite the groups and improve our Regional Training Committees.

- Vice President Elaine Gall and I are currently part of the Joint Conference Committee working toward putting together a joint conference in 2017 between VBCOA, VPMIA and VFPA. This conference will allow VFPA to provide training to people that enforce the parts of the Construction Code and educate them on how the Fire Marshall’s enforce the Fire Code. My hope is to improve relations between all of the Code Enforcement Organizations for the good of everyone including the public.
Assignments Provided by President Hollingsworth (Region Comments Submitted in Red)

First Quarter – July 1 - September 30

- work with the Randy Pearce and the State Fire Marshal’s Office to establish a list of Fire Marshal’s Office’s and
  the point of contact for each Fire Marshal’s Office in Region 2 West
  (to be completed by June 2016) (I have compiled a list and POC for all Fire Marshal Offices and Fire
  Departments in Region.)
- put together a working group (committee) to represent VFPA and assist you in Region 2 West. The Committee
  should meet during the 1st Quarter, and have at-least 1 meeting each quarter moving forward. (Have met with the
  Shenandoah Valley Joint Committee for Fire and Arson and will utilize this group as a platform to discuss and
  work with Region 2 West for VFPA.)
- submit the Quarterly Region Report in writing to each member of the VFPA Board by email on or before
  September 30, 2015 (A little Late but here it is!)
- the 2nd Quarter VFPA Board Meeting is scheduled for October 12 at 10 am at the Roanoke VFPA Conference.
  (Will attend Sunday meeting at the Roanoke Fall Conference)

Additional Items to Report

- Met with President Hollingsworth and Secretary Luttrell on 8/18/2015 at Warren County Fire Administration to
discuss the VFPA Web Page and Social Media (Facebook Page) List of goals and objectives created and
discussed a “user friendly” web page. Target Completion Date – Ongoing
- Letter of Support from Chief Mabie – Warren County Fire/Rescue to support the position of LCFR Chief Brower
  sent to Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones. Target Completion Date – Done
- Flyer for VFPA Fall Training Conference sent to Region 2 F/R Contacts; Reminder Email Sent to all Department
  not sending representation to fall conference as provided by Treasure Little. Target Completion Date – Done

Region 2 West Training

Regional Training Event planned for Mid-November for a 4 hour inspection based program on the “Preparation
for Fire Code Enforcement During Black-Friday and Holiday Shopping Season”.

Will host the program at Warren County Fire Administration and seek funding support from the locality hosting
the program. Target Date – November 17th
This quarter I spoke with the following:

- Eric Blevins – FM Bristol
- Charles Vannatter – FM Wythville
- Mike Yingling – SFMO
- Robbie Cecil – FM Dublin
  - Attempted David Hanes – Chilhowie
  - Attempted Charles Burke – Big Stone Gap

The topic of conversation was to introduce myself and get feed back from the region Fire Marshal’s concerning training needs in Region 4 and to make sure all had an invitation to the training in Roanoke October 19-20, 2015.

The biggest request was training in Southwest Va (Southwest of Roanoke). There was also discussions of training regarding blasting, blasters and storage of blasting materials. Also where does hording fit into the fire inspectors line of duty – especially regarding residential properties. The fire marshals that I spoke with have all agreed to try and meet in the next quarter and brainstorm ideas for training.

On a side note; Wythville is attempting to start a Fire Investigator in 2016.

This is all I have to report this quarter.

Todd Garwood
Pulaski Fire Marshal – Fire Official
VFPA Region 4 Chair
PO Box 660
Pulaski VA 24301
540-994-8664
540-994-8699 fax
540-440-0156 cell
tgarwood@pulaskitown.org
Dear Secretary Jones:

At the request of Deputy Secretary of Public Safety Adam Thiel, our fire service organization is seeking your help in addressing an ongoing fire and life safety concern we have for the citizens and firefighters of the Commonwealth. The request by Secretary Thiel was the result of a pointed letter sent to the Secretary of Public Safety concerning the development and adoption of the Uniform Statewide Building Code and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. In that letter, Loudoun County Fire Chief Keith Brower expressed clear issues with the composition of the Board of Housing, the process by which these codes are promulgated, and the lack of transparency and public input into the development of these important regulations in Virginia.

This letter is meant to support Chief Brower's original concerns as well as detail the concerns held by the leaders of Virginia's fire service organizations. Here, we will attempt to illustrate specific incidents of how the current process is imbalanced and flawed. These flaws we fear are creating undue risk to Virginia residents and the firefighters sworn to protect them.

First, Virginia adopts a "model" building and fire code that is published by the International Code Council (ICC). These documents are published every three years and go through a process to change and consider new technology and methods based on a long and transparent hearing process that involves building professionals, fire service organizations, building officials and inspectors, product manufacturers and a myriad of other professional organizations just to name a few involved in the process. When a change to these codes is proposed, a formal hearing is conducted by an ICC Committee seated to specifically evaluate the merits of the change. The proponents are provided the opportunity to outline the change and opponents are provided equal time to argue their opposition. After there has been a full vetting – including questions posed to those testifying from the committee – a vote is taken. There remains one additional step in the process by which the committee can be overturned by the voting members of the ICC. However, due to the broad and balanced make up of these ICC Committees, they are rarely overturned.

Once published by the ICC, the process moves to Virginia to update our building and fire codes to reflect the modern materials, construction features, and safety provisions of the newly updated codes. This is where we believe the system currently in place to amend and adopt these heavily vetted model codes goes astray. This process is governed by the Administrative Process Act which gives great latitude to the Board of Housing and Community Development. In most instances this is a positive thing for Virginia, but without clear direction from the Act, and with the imbalance on the Board of Housing, the process
allows for a considerable bias toward the homebuilding and construction industry and has compromised safety.

Over the course of the remainder of this letter, we will outline some of the more significant issues we face in the course of the adoption of these safety regulations.

1. The “work group” process used by the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Board of Housing is not transparent, it is disorganized, confusing, and is not outlined in any formal process documented by the agency or the Board of Housing:

After the latest editions of the respective codes are published by the International Code Council, DHCD staff form work groups to reportedly yet the changes to the model codes and propose amendments to the existing Virginia codes. The make-up of these workgroups is not defined and there is no assurance or requirement for representation by any organization or group. In the ICC Committee process, each committee is designated by the ICC with balanced representation from users, code officials, builders, and fire safety advocates.

Multiple work groups are developed to address a wide variety of code subjects and many code changes are discussed at multiple workgroups. The assignment of specific code changes does not follow any pattern or formal process, and since many of the proposed Virginia amendments discussed in multiple work group meetings, they often result in differing opinions on the issues and impacts. In the ICC process, specific committees are designated to hear and approve or deny specialized segments of the model codes. There are specific committees dealing with structural codes, energy codes, and fire codes among others.

Department of Housing and Community Development staff conducts these work group meetings to gain “consensus” on changes to the model codes and propose Virginia amendments. However; there is often significant variability on the definition of consensus. Depending on the proponent or opponent of a specific code change, one lone opposing voice could label a code as “non-consensus”. While in other situations, an entire industry could oppose a change but because there was only a few people attending the work group, the change was labeled “consensus”. This process has clearly shown a bias from DHCD staff and allowed special interests to overwhelm the numbers to marginalize the opposition.

Once a code change has been labeled consensus, the Board of Housing typically approves those changes without further detailed discussion. The Board hears a brief summary of the work group’s discussion as presented by staff from DHCD, and not a detailed debate of the merits of changes like is seen in the ICC code change process. Here again we have seen bias presented by DHCD staff as they have highlighted some items of discussion in the work group process, and marginalized or completely ignored others.

2. The public hearing process used by the Board of Housing does not allow for a full and proper hearing on code change proposals:

In past code adoption cycles, the Board of Housing has advertised and held two public hearings on the adoption of the new model codes and amendments. The hearings are properly advertised and publicly held, however each speaker is limited to the time and content on which they may speak. Individuals are held to a single two or three minute timeframe in which they must speak on all of the code changes submitted to a particular code. This may represent literally hundreds of submitted changes to amend the Virginia codes and hundreds of changes to the updated model codes. Anyone interested in more than one code change issue is handcuffed from speaking on all of their areas of interest or concern.

In addition to the limitations on the topics, there is an inherent lack of true debate on any one code change. If a proponent of the change speaks for the change, there may be dozens of speakers discussing dozens of unrelated code changes before the opposition has the chance to speak to the comments.
made by any one proponent. This is in stark contrast to the ICC process which properly debates – through a process of proponents, opposition, then rebuttal debates – in order to fully discuss one specific proposal. During this debate, members of the decision making body are afforded the opportunity to clarify and question any speaker on the topic at hand. This provides them with a full awareness and understanding of each and every code change before that group decides on any issue. Following the complete debate, a vote of the deciding body is taken and the decision made.

In the Board of Housing process, there are no opportunities for questions to be asked of the speakers, and the decision is made sometimes months after this meeting. During which time DHCD Staff hold their work group meetings and provide the Board with their overviews before voting on a matter. In addition, votes have been taken by the Board when members of the Codes and Standards Committee have openly indicated they did not understand a code change, they were uncertain as to the impacts of a specific proposal, and were not fully aware of the long term costs of a change that had been approved at the national model code committee process. With those questions looming and remaining unanswered, and admittedly without a clear understanding of a code proposal before them, the Committee and Board approved a submitted code change.

3. Virginia’s fire service is not fairly represented on the Board of Housing or in the DHCD code development process:

While the Code of Virginia Section § 27-97 specifies, “The Board of Housing and Community Development is hereby empowered to adopt and promulgate a Statewide Fire Prevention Code which shall be cooperatively developed with the Fire Services Board pursuant to procedures agreed to by the two Boards”, the process to adopt the Statewide Fire Prevention Code remains fully and completely in the hands of the Board of Housing. The agreement currently in place specifies that a joint committee from the Fire Services Board and the Board of Housing will review changes to the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, but when the time comes for adoption of the code, the Board of Housing remains the controlling entity. Any decision by the joint committee is easily and quickly overruled by the Board of Housing’s Codes and Standards Committee or full Board. The language in the Code of Virginia as it is currently written, combined with any agreement between the two boards is not followed.

The marginal involvement in the development of the fire code is nonexistent in the development of the Uniform Statewide Building Code. This is contrary to the development of the national model codes (both the ICC and National Fire Protection Association’s code) in which the fire service is on equal footing with the building trades, building owners, and other special interests. Fire service representation on the Board of Housing is limited to one At Large position filled by a member of the Virginia Fire Services Board. This is a single fire safety position on a regulatory board which has an overabundance of a single special interest group representation.

4. The Board of Housing which promulgates the Uniform Statewide Building Code and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code does not provide a balanced approach to the development of these important regulations. Rather it is dominated by a single special interest group that is regulated by these codes:

The Board of Housing and Community Development is a fourteen (14) member, Governor appointed body that is tasked with the promulgation of the Uniform Statewide Building Code, the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, and other related regulations in addition to other duties outlined in section § 36-137 of the Code of Virginia. At present, those members are comprised of one ex officio member from the Virginia Housing Development Authority, one member from the Virginia Fire Services Board, and one
member from the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association. The remaining eleven (11) members of the Board represent each of the Commonwealth’s Congressional Districts.

Of the eleven members who represent the congressional districts, eight are owners, principles, or board members of a home building company. The remaining three positions are closely connected to the homebuilding industry as realtors or involved in the financing of home construction. It is this degree of special interest involvement in the development of the regulations of this industry that gives the members of our organization the greatest concern.

The development of the model codes at the national level provides a balanced approach to involvement of the homebuilding industry, product manufacturers, regulatory organizations, and the fire service. These codes are fully vetted, openly debated, and adopted with proper research and justification. When they are then amended in Virginia, they are gutted and watered down by an overwhelmingly biased regulatory board that has very little fire service representation and virtually no public input and debate.

5. Department of Housing and Community Development staff members have been proponents of code changes which favor specific industries and companies without clear direction from the Board of Housing or the Director:

The most egregious example of this issue occurred in the most recent code change process when DHCD staff proposed a code change regarding the storage of consumer fireworks. The ICC’s fire and building code committees reduced the maximum allowable quantities of these explosive products that are allowed to be stored in retail occupancies. This was due to the fireworks industry being unable to demonstrate how these products would react in a building fire. These changes were based on a lack of scientific evidence that demonstrated the effectiveness of fire suppression systems on this fuel package.

In reaction to the new 2012 edition of the ICC building and fire codes, DHCD staff drafted a change that would allow the increased quantities to be stored in buildings with a suppression system, but only for what Virginia defines as “permissible fireworks”. The quantity limits for “consumer fireworks” remained unchanged from the model codes. While offering no justification for the change, and no supporting evidence of the differences between the two supposedly different products, DHCD staff proposed the change.

In the work group process outlined in item 1, DHCD staff members reviewed the change with a limited number of attendees during at least one of the work group meetings. In that meeting, there was no support for the change as presented, and yet the change was presented to the Board of Housing as a “consensus” change from the work group process. Fire service members in attendance at that work group meeting, having heard no support for the change from anyone in attendance, assumed the change would not move forward. The definition of “consensus” was once again malleable to the needs of the special interest represented by members of the agency.

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association and other fire service organizations in Virginia believe the process for the adoption of building and fire codes in our Commonwealth is broken. The bias and imbalanced process will lead to communities that are less safe than they have been in the past. New home construction is more dangerous today than it ever has been in the past due to light weight construction, more combustible materials and furnishings in the home with higher heat release rates. Combine these issues with differences in modern open floor plans providing for faster fire development.
and spread than ever, and the fire related risk to residents and firefighters has grown exponentially. The National Institute for Standards and Testing along with Underwriters Laboratory testing has demonstrated these modern fire problems again and again. Their research has shown how today’s fire scenarios and construction features are clearly increasing these risks.

Other states like Maryland and California have taken statewide action to reduce these new fire risks by requiring fire sprinklers in new homes consistent with both of the national model building codes. Other states have left this decision to local cities and counties to address the fire problems locally by allowing them to adopt or modify building codes. In Virginia, we do not have either of these strategies available to employ due to the nature of the laws regulating building codes and the special interests that are controlling the code development process.

As an organization of fire officials from across the Commonwealth, it is our hope that your office and the Governor will see the need to change the Code of Virginia and allow a better code development process to prevail in order to protect the lives and property of our citizens and firefighters. We would recommend a documented process outlining the process and changes to the Code that places the Board of Housing and Community Development and the Fire Services Board on equal footing in the development of these codes. Alternative options would be to move the development of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code from the Board of Housing to the sole responsibility of the Fire Services Board and to permit local governments to require the use of fire sprinklers in newly constructed single family homes.

Respectfully,

George Hollingsworth, President
Virginia Fire Prevention Association