Suffolk County Legislature
William H. Rogers Legislature Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, NY 11787

**RE: Support for IR 1997-2024 – Affordable Housing for Volunteer Firefighters & EMS Personnel**

Dear Presiding Officer and Members of the Suffolk County Legislature,

On behalf of the **Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Association**, I write to express **strong support** for **IR 1997-2024**, introduced by Legislator Rebecca Sanin, which will help address the growing challenges facing the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel across Suffolk County.

As you know, **volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel are the backbone of our emergency response system**, providing life-saving services to our communities. However, recruitment has become increasingly difficult, and one of the most significant barriers is the high cost of living on Long Island. Many of our volunteers, especially younger recruits, struggle to afford to live in the communities they serve.

This legislation is a crucial step toward **supporting those who dedicate their time and risk their lives for public safety**. By ensuring that affordable housing developments set aside units for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, Suffolk County will not only provide them with much-needed housing opportunities but will also strengthen **our emergency response system** and the overall safety of our residents.

We urge you to support IR 1997-2024 and recognize the **sacrifices made by our volunteer first responders**. Legislator Sanin and her team have been in touch with us to get our feedback as she crafted this legislation, and we are proud to support this bill. IR 1997-2024 is an investment in public safety, in the stability of our communities, and in the future of the volunteer fire service.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

**Sincerely,**

**Vincent Ammirati**
President, Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Association