

F AIRVIEW
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County Executive George Latimer
Westchester County
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear County Executive Latimer:

I am writing in support of your proposed County legislation regarding Lithium-Ion Batteries. As the Chief of Fairview Fire Department, I am very concerned about the current and growing prevalence of devices with Lithium-Ion Batteries, and their potential to contribute to or cause difficult to control fires. Such fires are especially dangerous because of the toxic fumes they generate and because they burn far hotter and faster than most other types of fires.

Our department as well as our neighboring departments have first-hand experience dealing with fires caused by or involving Lithium-Ion Batteries. In the early stages of fires caused by new technology we scramble to find effective avenues for suppression, overhaul, disposal and of course the creation of policy for safety for our firefighters. Your proposed legislation will be a great aid in addressing those objectives.

I appreciate the County taking action to help prevent Lithium-Ion Battery related fires. The proposed county legislation to require safety standards for e-bikes and other mobility devices sold within the county, to prohibit the use or sale of reassembled or reconditioned batteries, to require point of sale warning notices, and to develop a public education and outreach campaign, will go a long way towards alleviating the fire risk caused by these batteries in our community.

In addition, the Fairview Fire Department appreciates the County stepping up to create a battery disposal program. This solves a significant problem faced by our department and by our residents.

We strongly support this legislation, and we are grateful that Westchester County is taking a leadership role on this important and growing safety problem.

Very truly yours,

FAIRVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Howard Reiss
Chief Howard Reiss