

**CITY OF PEEKSKILL
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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Dear County Executive Latimer:

I am writing in support of your recently proposed County legislation regarding Lithium-Ion Batteries. As the Chief of City of Peekskill Fire Department, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects associated with the improper use, storage and charging of devices containing Lithium-Ion Batteries.

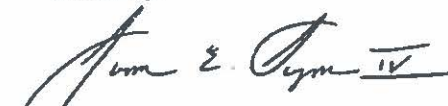
Our experience here in Peekskill has ranged from the off-gassing of a Lithium-Ion battery used in a residential lawnmower, to a devastating apartment fire caused by the overcharging of an off-brand Lithium-Ion battery used in an e-bike. These two instances are not alone, and the expectation of our first responders is that these types of events will continue to expand. These incidents are especially dangerous to our firefighters and to our residents, due to the toxic fumes generated by these batteries and because of the velocity and ferocity in which these types of fires burn.

I, along with my entire department and city, deeply 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 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 tremendously impact in lightening the fire risk caused by these batteries in our community.

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

The members of the City of Peekskill Fire Department strongly support this legislation, and we are glad that Westchester County is taking a leadership role on this important and growing safety problem.

Sincerely,


James E. Seymour IV
Chief of Department