



## **2010 Fraternal Order of Police Gubernatorial Questionnaire**

1. Over the last several years, the Fraternal Order of Police has sought a limited tax credit for members who have served and retired. This is similar to the tax credit offered for military personnel. The “Hometown Heroes Act” would allow for a tax credit for persons who qualify at the age of 50 years. As, Governor, what is your stance on providing such a credit for retired law enforcement and how would you assist us in our pursuit?

**The Hometown Heroes Act is a great concept because, like veterans, Maryland should attempt to attract and retain as many retired police officers and emergency workers as possible. Unfortunately, due to the mismanagement of the State’s budget by the current administration, the State cannot afford this worthy piece of legislation until we rein in spending and balance the budget. Maryland faces a nearly \$2 billion deficit due to Governor O’Malley’s failure to control wasteful spending. When the O’Malley Administration called a special legislative session in Annapolis to “reduce spending,” it actually approved \$600 million in new spending just as the state was entering a recession. The State now faces a crippling budget deficit due to his failure to lead.**

**As Governor, I will cut wasteful spending and balance the budget. When I served as Governor from 2003 to 2007, I turned \$4 billion in inherited budget deficits into a budget surplus and nearly tripled the State’s Rainy Day Fund. I did so without increasing sales or income taxes. Under my leadership, Maryland was one of just six states with a coveted Triple A bond rating from all three major rating agencies. This fiscal leadership will give worthy pieces of legislation like the Hometown Heroes Act the attention they deserve. I look forward to working with the FOP on the Hometown Heroes Act.**

2. For many years, the Fraternal Order of Police has actively sought for the right to collectively bargain with our employers. What is your position on collective bargaining with binding arbitration? What have you done, in order to support the Fraternal Order of Police in achieving this goal?

**Throughout my career in public service as a Delegate, Congressman, and as your Governor, I have strongly supported the right of police officers to engage in collective bargaining. Most recently, I put my commitment for collective bargaining with binding arbitration in writing when I sent a letter to local and state officials in Cecil County in support of the FOP's attempts to obtain collective bargaining with binding arbitration. I was disappointed to learn that the current administration and legislature did not support**

**the original legislation submitted by the Cecil County FOP. I will continue my support and commitment to law enforcement officers if I am elected Governor.**

3. Achieving and maintaining public safety is potentially the most important task of our government and our society. Staffing and resources are critical for law enforcement to successfully accomplish this goal. What is your position on furloughs? During these challenging times, what is your position on the elimination of public safety personnel and/or agencies?

**I strongly oppose any attempts to balance the State's budget on the backs of its employees. Governor O'Malley gave massive pay raises to his staff yet he furloughed thousands of state employees and bullied other state workers to make contributions to his re-election campaign. I do not support furloughs of any government employees, especially law enforcement officers who are being forced to work, but are having their pay reduced. Reducing the number of law enforcement personnel on the street endangers the safety of police officers and the community as a whole. Further, I believe furloughs destroy morale and lead to decreased production by employees who must suffer because of poor choices made by this administration. The current administration's furlough policy of police officers who work under labor contracts is unconscionable and violates the collective bargaining process. I will not furlough police officers.**

**During my administration, I turned a \$4 billion budget deficit into a budget surplus and nearly tripled the State's Rainy Day Fund. I made difficult decisions, but public safety was always a top priority. My administration strengthened public safety agencies to protect our citizens. If I am elected in November, I will once again make public safety a top priority, and I will not eliminate any public safety personnel or agencies.**