



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor David J. Narkewicz
CC: City Clerk Wendy Mazza
DATE: July 1, 2015
RE: Appointment of Fire Rescue Department Chief

I am appointing Assistant Chief Duane A. Nichols to the position of Chief of the Northampton Fire Rescue Department, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Brian Duggan.

Assistant Chief Nichols joined the Northampton Fire Rescue Department in 1987, beginning a distinguished twenty-eight year tenure in which he has steadily risen up through the ranks. He served as a firefighter for seven years, Shift Captain for four years, Acting Deputy Chief for one year, Training Officer for three years, and Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention/Operations for five years. He was promoted to his current rank of Assistant Chief in 2007, overseeing the department's sixty-eight members, as well as the fire prevention bureau, training division, and fire suppression.

Assistant Chief Nichols has a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science Management from Anna Maria College in Paxton MA and an Associate's Degree in Fire Science from Greenfield Community College in Greenfield MA. He completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program and in 2014 was credentialed to serve as a "Fire Chief" by the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission.

Assistant Chief Nichols sits on the Fire Science Technology program advisory board at Greenfield Community College (GCC). He is an adjunct professor at GCC and a Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructor. He has been a member of the Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Response Program since 1994 and currently serves as the Assistant Team Leader for our regional district.

Assistant Chief Nichols was born in Northampton, grew up in Williamsburg, and graduated from Hampshire Regional High School. He has lived in Hampshire County his entire life and currently resides in Westhampton with his wife Barbara and their two children, McKenzie and Andrew.

Assistant Chief Nichols has been an integral part of the leadership team that has helped modernize the Northampton Fire Rescue Department over the last several years, transforming it into a regional leader providing over forty services to our community. He has ably and tirelessly served the residents of Northampton for 28 years and has earned the respect and confidence of his public safety colleagues within our city and across the region.

I am confident in Assistant Chief Nichols' ability to lead our Fire Rescue Department and am honored to elevate him to the rank of Chief. I respectfully submit his appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with the Northampton Charter, Article 2, § 2-10.

Duane A. Nichols

Westhampton, MA 01027

Experience

Northampton Fire Department, Northampton MA 28 years of service

Assistant Fire Chief, (8/07-)

Administrative and supervisory work in directing firefighting; and life safety services in the protection of life and property inclusive of the prevention and suppression of fires, emergency medical services, public education, environmental services and participation in tactical or operational planning efforts. Working with the Fire Chief as part of the senior management team for the department.

Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention/ Operations Officer (9/02—8/07)

Conduct, oversee and coordinate all fire prevention programs and activities.

Operations: Supervise four work groups and oversee all department activities including training division

Captain/Training Officer (2/99—8/02)

Conduct, Oversee and Coordinate all training for Northampton Fire Department consisting of 68 members.

Acting Deputy Chief (3/98—2/99)

Supervised shift of 13+ on-duty members for emergency calls and daily activities.

Shift Captain (4/94—2/98)

Company Officer in charge of Engine Company consisting of 4 +firefighters for emergency and routine calls.

Firefighter (6/87—3/94)

Performed routine firefighting duties.

Education/Accreditations

Received Accreditation as a Fire Chief from the Fire Service Commission in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2014

Anna Maria College, Paxton MA

B.S. in Fire Science in 2011

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield MA

A.S. in Fire Science in 2007

Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield MA

Various Fire Science classes

(Duane A. Nichols)

Certifications

Fire Fighter I, II
Fire Officer I, II
Fire Instructor I
Hazardous Materials Technician
Fire Inspector I, II
Incident Safety Officer-Hazardous Material Operations

Additional Professional Training

Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy Classes:

Recruit Training Program
Hazardous Materials Training Technician
Methodology I
Course Development
Chief Officer Management Program
Fire and Arson Investigations
Advanced Fire and Arson Investigations
Various classes on all aspects of fire fighting leadership and management
FEMA Logistics Section Chief training
National Incident Management to the I-400 level
Certificate of Credential – Fire Prevention Officer – Basic
Certificate of Credential – Fire Prevention Officer I

NFPA Seminars

NFPA 72 Fire Alarm
NFPA Emergency Evacuation Procedures

National Fire Academy

Challenges for the Local Training Officer
Various programs on leadership and management

Licenses and Assignments

Member Department of Fire Services, District 4 Hazardous Materials Response Team,
• Currently serving as Assistant Team Coordinator
Northampton Emergency Operations Center as Liaison to City Departments
Lead Fire Investigator for the Northampton Fire Department
Fire Science Advisory Committee member Greenfield Community College

(Duane A. Nichols)

Additional Work History

Member of the Hampshire County Fire Defense Association Training Committee, Coordinating, Conducting and Overseeing Recruit Firefighter Training for Hampshire County

2011-current, Adjunct Instructor for Greenfield Community College, Conduct, coordinates and develops fire science classes for Associate Degree Program.

1999- current, Adjunct Instructor for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Conduct and coordinate firefighter training ranging from basic firefighting skills to advanced firefighter training.