



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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COMMISSIONERS APPOINT OWENS AS DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today announced the appointment of Thomas W. Owens as director of the Division of Fire and Rescue Services, effective February 1, 2010.

Assistant County Manager Barry Stanton has served as acting director of the division since the retirement of Director Gene Mellin on May 12, 2009.

Board President Jan Gardner commented, “Mr. Owens brings 40 years of fire and emergency service experience to the Division of Fire & Rescue Services. He began as a volunteer firefighter at age 16 and rose through the ranks to become chief for two combination career/volunteer fire departments, dedicating his life to serving citizens of both urban and rural communities. The County Commissioners now welcome such a devoted and hard working firefighter to serve the citizens of Frederick County.”

Mr. Owens has served since 2003 as Fire Chief of the City of Fairfax Fire Department, Fairfax, Va., and previously served as Assistant Fire Chief of the department from 1998 to 2003.

The 90 career employees and 30 volunteer members of the department provide primary fire suppression and emergency medical service to the City of Fairfax and a 14-square mile area of Fairfax County that immediately surrounds the city, as well as the Fairfax campus of George Mason University.

Mr. Owens oversaw the operation of five tactical companies that responded from two fire stations in the city. These companies maintained a high operational tempo due to an urban service area that generated roughly 11,000 emergency vehicle responses each year.

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Prior to his service with the City of Fairfax Fire Department, Mr. Owens was Director of Fire and Rescue for the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department in Winchester, Va., (1990 - 1998); Management Analyst III and Volunteer Coordinator for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Fairfax, Va., (1984 - 1990), and Chief of Operations and Training for Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, Leesburg, Va., (1978-1984).

Mr. Owens also worked as a Firefighter for the District of Columbia Fire Department, Washington, D.C., (1977 - 1978) and Firefighter/Station Officer with Prince William County Fire and Rescue, Manassas, Va., (1972 - 1977).

The Sterling Volunteer Fire Department and citizens in Loudoun County, Va., benefitted from 21 years of volunteer service (1969-1990) provided by Mr. Owens. He served in all operational capacities as he rose from the ranks of firefighter through Chief of the Department.

In addition to many years of career and volunteer work in fire departments, Mr. Owens has extensive training and certifications in the field.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in organizational leadership and development from Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W.Va. He also holds an Associate degree in fire science-administration from Northern Virginia Community College and the Chief Fire Officer designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

He and his wife currently reside in Sterling, Va.

For further information on the appointment of Director Owens, contact County Manager Ron Hart at 301-600-3999.

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