

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE HOLDS PROMOTION AND OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY**

SUFFOLK, VA (January 21, 2016) The Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department held a Promotion and Oath of Office Ceremony this afternoon at Suffolk City Hall to promote a new Deputy Fire Chief and welcome 13 new experienced firefighters to the Department's ranks.

Franklin T. "Ted" Adams was officially promoted to Deputy Fire Chief overseeing Operations. He began his career with the Suffolk Fire Department 29 years ago in March 1987. Along with eleven Chesapeake recruits, Chief Adams was the only recruit from Suffolk comprising the "Dirty Dozen" graduating class from the Southside Regional Fire Academy.

In 1995, Chief Adams graduated from Tidewater Community College with an Associate's Degree in Fire Science. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1999, Captain in 2001 and the rank of Battalion Chief in 2003. His collateral duties as Battalion Chief included oversight of Special Operations. Chief Adams graduated from the Chief Officers Curriculum at the National Fire Academy, and continuing his education, he completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in 2010, and the City of Suffolk's Leadership Academy in 2011.

Deputy Chief Adams currently resides in Virginia Beach with his 11 year old son, Colby.

In his comments regarding Adams' promotion, Chief Cedric Scott noted, "I am very pleased that Franklin T. Adams has been selected to serve as one of the Department's Deputy Fire Chiefs. He is extremely prepared for this position and will serve the citizens of our community with dedication and professionalism. Our Department will benefit greatly from his training, experience and knowledge, and I look forward to working with him in his new position."

When referring to the newest members of the Suffolk Fire & Rescue family, he further commented, "I am very excited to welcome our 13 new firefighters. We are very fortunate to have them join our team of excellent first responders. This group was hired through a creative and competitive process, in that we advertised and recruited for experienced firefighters and medics. This process was very successful and yielded firefighters and medics with varying experience levels that will allow our Department to place them on fire trucks and ambulances immediately after receiving an orientation and skills review. I welcome them to Suffolk Fire & Rescue."

These newest members include:

Christopher Balassone

David Bell

Richard Blake

John Buttrick III

Anthony Clark

Ryan Council

Melanie Gray

Jonathan Guffey

Edward Kaczowsky

David Matson

Troy Munday

Matthew Nixon

Christopher Rogers

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