

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

September 4, 2018



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
Office: 757.514.4104
Mobile: 757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
Office: 757.514.4103
Mobile: 757.871.3039

FIRE CHIEF ANNOUNCED

SUFFOLK, VA (September 4, 2018) City Manager Patrick Roberts announced today the appointment of Michael J. Barakey as Fire Chief effective October 1, 2018.

Barakey, age 44, has been in the fire service since 1993. He currently serves as a District Chief with the Virginia Beach Fire Department and has provided leadership over Special Operations, Personnel and Development, Communications and Information Technology, Finance and Budget, Resource Management, Research and Analysis, Accreditation and Training.

He has operated at and commanded many major incidents locally and throughout the country and world. Barakey is a Task Force Leader for VA-TF2, one of 28 National Urban Search and Rescue Teams, with numerous deployments to include the Salt Lake City Olympics (2002), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Haiti Earthquake (2010) and most recently Hurricane Maria and Irma in Puerto Rico (2017). He is a Hazmat Specialist, a Fire Instructor III, a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a Neonatal/Pediatric Critical Care Paramedic for the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia.

Barakey holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program (2009); is a peer assessor for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and is designated as Chief Fire Officer (CFO) by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He regularly contributes to *Fire Engineering* Magazine, and will publish his first book in 2018 titled *Critical Decision Making, Point-to-Point Leadership in Fire and Emergency Services* (by PennWell Publishing).

City Manager Roberts is pleased to have Barakey in the position of Fire Chief, stating, "Mike has an impressive and well-rounded history in the fire service and will be an excellent leader for the men and women of Suffolk Fire & Rescue. I have full confidence that under his leadership we will remain one of the finest Departments in the country."

Barakey is married and has two children.

###