

ORDINANCE

NO.

An ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 11 of the Columbus Code in order to update various organizational and administrative provisions pertaining to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; and for other purposes.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COLUMBUS COUNCIL HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

Section 11-14 of the Columbus Code is repealed and replaced with a new Section 11-4 to read as follows:

“Sec. 11-14. - Assistant chief—Appointment.

There shall be one assistant chief appointed pursuant to the provisions of section 11-17.13 of this chapter.”

Section 2.

Section 11-17.3 of the Columbus Code is repealed and replaced with a new Section 11-17.3 to read as follows:

• **“Sec. 11-17.3. - Definitions.**

The following definitions shall be used to administer and interpret this division:

(a) *Applicant*: Employees who assert they are eligible for promotion to the rank of fire sergeant, fire lieutenant, fire captain, fire battalion chief in the department of fire and emergency medical services of the consolidated government of Columbus, Georgia.

(b) *Appointed/provisional rank*: Employee appointed to a specific rank by the chief in compliance with this division. Appointed ranks include fire marshal division chief, EMS coordinator Division Chief, five deputy chiefs and one assistant chief.

(c) *Non-Chief appointed provisional rank*: assistant training officer (captain), fire prevention (captain), training instructors (lieutenant), fire prevention inspectors (lieutenant), fire prevention investigators (sergeant), logistics/support (sergeant), logistics/support (lieutenant), rescue coordinator (captain), EMS coordinator (captain), logistics/support (captain) and administrative captain.

(d) *Candidate*: Any participant whose name appears on the promotional roster established for the rank for which the employee is competing.

(e) *Chief*: The chief of the department of fire and emergency medical services.

(f) *Credentialed Chief Fire Officer* – A Fire-EMS employee who is credentialed by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO)

(g) *Department*: The department of fire and emergency medical services.

(h) *Eligible*: Any applicant certified in writing by the chief to participate in the applicable promotional procedure.

(i) *Eligibility date*: The date from which an employee's time in service or time in rank requirement is calculated. October 15, 2015 shall be the eligibility date set at subsequent 24-month intervals. The examination date for each position shall be determined by the examination administrator. The written test may occur prior to the eligibility date.

(j) *Examination administrator*: An agent outside of the consolidated government of Columbus, Georgia contracted to prepare and administer written examinations and assessment centers.

(i) *Fire apparatus*: Any engine truck, ladder truck or squad truck.

(j) *Fire officer*: The ranks of fire lieutenant, fire captain, and fire battalion chief.

(k) *Participant*: Any employee who, upon being certified as eligible by the chief, actually engages in any or all of the promotional procedures for the rank for which the employee has been certified as eligible.

(l) *Permanent rank*: Employee who was promoted from the promotional eligibility roster and has successfully completed the probationary period of 18 months.

(m) *Proficiency for fire apparatus operations (PFAO)*: Performance-based examination administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Training Division. Once a candidate successfully completes the Proficiency for Fire Apparatus Operations test, the candidate will not be required to retake the Proficiency for Fire Apparatus Operations test, provided the candidate maintains the appropriate annual apparatus proficiency certification. The PFAO may be administered at any time prior to the announcement of the promotional cycle."

Section 3.

Section 11-17.13 of the Columbus Code is repealed and replaced with a new Section 11-17.13 to read as follows:

“Sec. 11-17.13. - Position of assistant chief.

(a) The position of assistant chief is an appointed rank. Said appointment is to be made by the chief.

(b) The position of assistant chief shall be pay grade 24.

(c) To be eligible for the position of assistant chief, a candidate must have held the appointed or promoted rank of battalion chief, division chief or deputy chief for two years. A baccalaureate degree is required. A master's degree is preferred but not required for this position. The candidate must be a Credentialed Chief Fire Officer or obtain such credential within three years of appointment.”

Section 4.

Section 11-17.14 of the Columbus Code is repealed and replaced with a new Section 11-17.14 to read as follows:

“Sec. 11-17.14. - Position of deputy chief.

(a) The position of deputy chief is an appointed rank. Said appointment is to be made by the chief.

(b) The position of deputy chief shall be pay grade 23.

(c) To be eligible for the position of deputy chief, a candidate must have been appointed or promoted to the rank of battalion chief or division chief or held the permanent rank of fire captain for a minimum of two years. An Associate's degree is required. A baccalaureate degree is preferred, but not required for this position. The candidate must be a Credentialed Chief Fire Officer or obtain such credential within three years of appointment.”

Section 5.

Section 11-17.15 of the Columbus Code is repealed and replaced with a new Section 11-17.15 to read as follows:

- **“Sec. 11-17.15. - Position of division chief.**

(a) The position of division chief includes the ranks of fire marshal division chief, and EMS Coordinator division chief. The position of division chief is an appointed rank. Said appointment shall be made by the chief.

(b) The position of division chief shall be pay grade 22.

(c) To be eligible for the position of division chief, a candidate must be a permanent rank of fire captain. An associate's degree (or equivalent two-year degree) is required. The candidate must be a Credentialed Chief Fire Officer or obtain such credential within four years of appointment."

Section 6.

Section 11-17.16 of the Columbus Code is repealed and replaced with a new Section 11-17.16 to read as follows:

- **"Sec. 11-17.16. - Non-chief appointed positions.**

(a) Non-chief appointed positions include the positions of assistant training officer (captain), assistant fire marshal (captain), training instructors, fire prevention inspectors, fire prevention investigators, logistics/support sergeant, logistics/support lieutenant, rescue coordinator (captain), logistics captain and administrative captain.

(b) Any appointee who fails to perform the duties of one of these ranks satisfactorily may at any time be reverted to their former permanent rank at the discretion of the chief."

Section 7.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 8th day of December, 2020, introduced a second time at a regular meeting held on the ___ day of _____, 2020; and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____ .
Councilor Barnes voting _____ .

Councilor Crabb voting _____ .
Councilor Davis voting _____ .
Councilor Garrett voting _____ .
Councilor House voting _____ .
Councilor Huff voting _____ .
Councilor Thompson voting _____ .

Councilor Tucker voting _____ .
Councilor Woodson voting _____ .

Sandra T. Davis

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III