

GARY A. HARRINGTON
14940 NORTH SAXON CIRCLE
SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA 33331

June 22, 2021

Gregory O. Holness
Fire Chief
Broward Sheriff's Office
2601 Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

Dear Chief Holness:

Please accept this letter of interest for the position of Assistant District Chief.

Throughout my 37 years in the fire service, I have worked in multiple capacities. I rose through the ranks to Battalion Chief in Fire Operations for thirteen of my thirty years before retiring. Responding to, and recovering from, emergencies has been a large part of my career. As a Chief Officer, I was responsible for establishing Incident Command on all major fire ground operations and multi-casualty incidents. I have extensive experience in exercising independent discretion in the protection and preservation of life. I also have extensive technical experience in the application of emergency medical care, prevention, control and suppression of fire, and response to natural and man-made disasters.

I have extensive administrative experience in managing personnel and I have excellent leadership abilities. Providing leadership and mentoring young officers as a Battalion Chief was one of the most rewarding aspects of serving. I administered and upheld policies and procedures. I led by example and carried out my duties with honesty, integrity, and fairness. I encouraged personnel to strive to perform at the highest possible level and appreciate the chain of command and delegation.

I also have extensive experience coordinating all operational needs, including training, post-incident analyses, reporting, procedure and policy development, and public relations functions. I have effective problem-solving skills, especially in emergency situations. I have served on numerous committees and the Union Executive Board, negotiating contract terms and benefits, and making recommendations to improve operational standards and safety measures. I have worked on special projects, including emergency response criteria and on-scene staffing based on the type of emergency. I was involved in the review of call volume, available resources, response times, and critical infrastructure within and outside the city boundaries, and drafting of proposed revisions to the existing response protocol. I believe the result of those changes saved lives.

I currently work in the Fire Prevention Bureau Dania Beach and Port Everglades districts. I have formed sound working relationships with stakeholders in both districts and provide exceptional customer service. I have served in supervisory positions at the Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) for both the Broward Sheriff's Office and Broward County. I currently serve on the Fire/Rescue Advisory Board for the Town of Southwest Ranches and hold a Master's Degree in Disaster and Emergency Management.

Attached is my resume which contains additional information on my qualifications. Also attached are character references from individuals that I have worked with in multiple capacities. I hope that these letters provide some insight into the knowledge and experience that I possess, as well as my integrity and work ethic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



GARY A. HARRINGTON

Gary Harrington

MS, CFM, MiFireE

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Southwest Ranches, Florida
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Summary

Dedicated member of the fire rescue service with over 37 years of experience seeking to use extensive fire/ems knowledge, education, administrative, and supervisory skills for the position of Assistant District Chief.

Education

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Master's Degree in Disaster and Emergency Management, *4.0 GPA Highest Honors*, April 2020

Epsilon Pi Phi (National Honor Society for Emergency Management)

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Graduate Certificate in Emergency Services and Disaster Management, *4.0 GPA*, December 2017

St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida

Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Service Management, *summa cum laude*, December 2016

Employment History

Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Fire

Fire Safety Inspector/Certified Fire Marshal

September 2014 – Present

Port Everglades Seaport

- Enforce NFPA codes, Florida Statutes and Port Everglades Tariff
- Ensure administrative and regulatory compliance regarding facility inspections
- Oversee and approve all hot work projects within the port including those on ships, in tank farms and involving petroleum piping
- Conduct inspections on loading rack systems, foam deluge system and verify proper operation of fire alarms and various extinguishing systems
- Work closely with facility management along with all stakeholders, hired contractors, professional engineers, marine chemists and port administration
- Work as an integral part of design and implementation of the first Berth Fire Protection System at Port Everglades fueling berths

- Advisor to the multimillion-dollar berth expansion project in Port Everglades and the redesigning of the Berth Fire Protection System to accommodate the berth expansion
- Provide requirements for the fire protection system within the new berth offloading fuel station. This area delineates and routes fuel to each terminal and storage tank during offloading from the fuel tankers.
- Advisor to the redesigning project of Citgo's aboveground storage tank fire protection
- Ensure proper fire protection at FPL's new offloading fuel rack and storage tanks

City of Dania Beach

- Conduct new construction permit inspections relating to fire protection and life safety
- Provide annual inspections on existing businesses to meet code compliance
- Assist in plan review of new construction, site plans, and construction buildouts
- Work closely with the Operations Division regarding pre-fire plans, school inspections, hazard identification, and Standard Operating Guidelines for fire/rescue responses

Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)

- During activations, oversee and operate within the Broward County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the Deputy Branch Director and the Sheriff's EOC for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 (firefighting) and ESF 9 (search and rescue)
- During COVID-19 Sheriff's EOC activation, assisted Incident Command and established Incident Action Plans (IAP) as the Deputy Planning Section Chief

Miramar Fire-Rescue Department, Miramar, Florida

Operations Battalion Chief / Shift Commander

November 1983 – November 2013

Battalion Chief of Operations: January 2000 – November 2013

- Performed highly responsible confidential, administrative, managerial and professional functions in the Fire Rescue Department and the City as assigned
- Provided significant executive level support and assistance to the Fire Rescue Department and City Administration with participation, planning, personnel administration, employee relations, collective bargaining and operating policies and procedures
- Supervised daily staffing for all stations, training operations, fire investigations and inspections, including arson investigations, and all aspects of emergency medical services
- Maintained and enforced Administrative Rules and Regulations, Standard Operating Procedures, Medical Protocols, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and city policies
- Mentored newly promoted officers and exemplified sound management techniques
- Established Incident Command on major fire and ems emergency scenes
- Maintained the National Incident Management System (NIMS) during operations

Certifications

ICS All Hazards Planning Section Chief, Federal Emergency Management Agency
ICS All Hazards Resources Unit Leader, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Pro Board Certified Fire Marshal, National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
State of Florida Fire Code Administrator, Division of State Fire Marshal, Florida
Certified Fire Plans Examiner, National Fire Protection Agency, Pro Board Accredited
Terrorism Liaison Officer, Southeast Florida Fusion Center
State of Florida Paramedic Certification, Broward College, Davie, Florida
State of Florida Fire Safety Inspector I, Division of State Fire Marshal, Florida
Broward County Municipal Fire Safety Inspector I, Division of Rules and Appeals
State of Florida Fire Officer II Certification, National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications and Division of State Fire Marshal, Florida
State of Florida Fire Instructor I Certification, Division of State Fire Marshal, Florida
Survival Techniques and Rescue, Trench Rescue, NUCA, Structural Collapse and Emergency
FEMA: IS-042, IS-100, IS-200, IS-230, IS-235, IS-240, IS-241, IS-242, IS-300, IS-320, IS-400, IS-547, IS-700, IS-701, IS-702, IS-703, IS-704, IS-706, IS-800, IS-800. c.

Memberships

Town of Southwest Ranches Fire/Rescue Advisory Board, appointed Board Member
Institute for Fire Engineers, International Organization for Fire Professionals (MIFireE)
Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (SERDSTF)
Broward County Emergency Response Team (BERT)
Broward Sheriff's Office Peer Support Team
International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
Florida Professional Firefighters (FPF)
Broward County Council of Professional Firefighters (BCCPFF)
Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association (FFMIA)
Fire Inspectors Association of Broward County (FIABC)
Broward County Firefighters and Paramedics – Local 4321
Danny Thomas – St. Jude Society (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)