



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

OTTO DROZD, III

Fire Chief, EFO, CFO

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Mayor Jerry Demings
Orange County Government
201 South Rosalind Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

Mayor Demings,

On May 31, 2019, I will resign as Fire Chief of the Orange County Fire Rescue Department (OCFRD). It has been my honor to lead the men and women of the OCFRD since 2012. I could not be more proud of their commitment to serve our community on a daily basis. While, I am humbled by their service, it is the manner in which they carry out that service that is the hallmark of Orange County Fire Rescue. Each has a commitment and dedication to serve and carry forth their work with Duty, Respect and Integrity. They stand on the frontlines ready to keep the residents and visitors of Orange County safe in their greatest time of need.

For more than six years we have worked diligently to improve service delivery and established Orange County Fire Rescue as one of the leading fire service organizations in the Nation. In this short time we have more than doubled the number of paramedics, increased staffing, added 8 new rescue units, opened Station 67 covering the UCF area, opened Station 44 providing service to the growing community of Horizon West, and there are two more new stations and two replacement stations planned and funded. We have established one of the most robust fire rescue dive programs in the State and have become an industry leader in the use of drone technology. Throughout this time, we have also enhanced firefighter health and safety by investing in equipment, training, and cultural change designed to mitigate exposure to those hazards inherent in firefighting. These achievements have been externally recognized through earning International Accreditation, an ISO Class One rating, and being recognized with an award from the Congressional Fire Services Institute for Excellence in Fire-Based EMS.

Despite our progress, there is still work to be done because real achievement is obtained through sustained effort. While, I have determined it is time to step

aside, I am confident in our firefighters' ability to continue to meet the fire and emergency service challenges of our community. It is my sincere hope that the next Fire Chief will be supported in the work that lies ahead and I am committed to be a resource to our community going forward.

I am confident that we have improved Orange County Fire Rescue beyond what many thought possible through our joint efforts. We are a better fire service organization today than when I joined and have many capable professionals within our ranks to carry the work forward with passion and commitment.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve our community and the outstanding men and women of Orange County Fire Rescue.

Sincerely,


Otto Drozd III
Fire Chief