



## **Mike Rice named Dayton Fire Department Director & Chief**

*Release date: Monday, Feb. 5, 2024*

Deputy Director & Chief Mike Rice will be sworn-in as Director & Chief of the Dayton Fire Department at a ceremony held Monday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m., at the Dayton Metro Library (215 E. Third St.).

As Director & Chief, Rice will oversee the operations, resources, and planning functions of the 160-year-old Dayton Fire Department and its sworn and civilian personnel with duties in firefighting, emergency medical services, fire prevention and investigation, and administration. The department operates 12 stations, a professional training center and responds to more than 42,000 emergency alarms yearly.

Chief Rice is a 23-year veteran of the department. He began his career in 2001 as a firefighter/paramedic and worked his way up through the ranks. In July of 2012, Rice was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and served the majority of that time as the company officer of Station 2 on 2nd platoon. In July of 2016, he was promoted to captain and was soon appointed as the training center commander, where he had oversight of all departmental training, health and safety, and employee recruitment functions.

In February of 2020, Rice was promoted to the rank of assistant chief and was assigned to oversee the Division of Strategic Programs and Safety. During that time, he led department-wide initiatives for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and directed operations in training, information technology, grant administration, EMS compliance, communications, dispatch, emergency preparedness, and health and safety. In April of 2022, Rice was promoted to the rank of deputy director & chief where he oversaw the daily operations of 324 members of the Emergency Services Division who provide emergency response from Dayton's 12 fire stations.

Chief Rice holds an Associate's Degree in Emergency Medical Services from Sinclair Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science from Anna Maria College, and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Waldorf University. Additionally, he has completed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certification Program at the University of South Florida, and has completed advanced coursework at the National Fire Academy (Emmitsburg, Maryland). Rice has obtained Fire Officer I-IV certifications and is a certified Firefighter II, Paramedic, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Instructor, and Live Fire Instructor.

Rice has received two Dayton Fire Department Certificates of Commendation for actions at emergency scenes in 2008 and 2015 and received a DFD Command Chiefs' Award for Excellence in Customer Service in 2018. He is a member of several

professional organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, and the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. Rice is the current president of the Greater Montgomery County Fire Chief's Association and the Co-Chair of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Chief Rice is also a veteran of the United States Air Force Reserves, where he served the entirety of his career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Chief Rice resides in downtown Dayton with his wife and daughter.

Chief Rice assumes the office of Director & Chief following the retirement of Jeff Lykins, who served the department for nearly 32 years.

"The Dayton Fire Department serves the community with excellence and distinction," said City Manager Shelley Dickstein. "Chief Rice will lead the department in that tradition while meeting the challenges ahead."

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