



PRESS RELEASE

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UNION CITY APPOINTS NEW FIRE CHIEF



(UNION CITY)- Union City's Mayor and Council are proud to announce the appointment of Joe Maddox as the City's new Fire Chief. Maddox served as interim fire chief from December 1st 2014 until January 20th, 2015. His career with the City spans over 35 years, and he has played a vital role in the Fire Department's success and public service initiatives.

Maddox was preceded by Chief Donald Leasher who recently retired with 22 years of service. He is charged with leading the day to day operations of the department on a 24-hour, 365 days a year basis. He will manage fire control, rescue, hazardous material clean-up as well as medical treatment efforts. The Chief will also oversee prevention and enforcement including coordinating community outreach and utilizing municipal fire codes to support safety.

"I have worked with Chief Maddox over the past five years and recognize his stellar service to the fire department and Union City," said City Manager Sonja Fillingame.

“He has moved up through the ranks of the department and demonstrates outstanding leadership skills. Chief Maddox is committed, intelligent, and respected. I have no doubt that he will continue serving with great distinction and professionalism,” Fillingame added.

Maddox holds a B.A. in Fire Service Administration and has served the community as a firefighter, paramedic, training officer, Assistant Fire Chief and Interim Fire Chief. As Public Safety Technical Chairperson for Skills USA and Adjunct Instructor at the Georgia Public Safety Center, he has instructed several leadership courses utilizing the National Fire Academy curriculum.

“My unwavering goal is to make UCFD a premier fire service organization that is known for innovation and efficiency in public safety. We are evolving to meet our citizens’ needs. Emergency medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescue, and homeland defense are our focus. We strive to be the absolute best we can be for our community,” said Chief Maddox.

Chief Maddox’s goals for 2015 include improving firefighter safety through technology, applying for federal assistance to hire additional firefighters through the SAFER grant program, increasing community speaking engagements, and improving the City’s ISO rating.

In 2014, UCFD responded to 3,309 EMS calls and 739 fire-related calls for a total of 4,048 calls for service. The Fire Marshal’s office performed 2,112 inspections. Additional highlights include receiving federal assistance for the purchase of personal protective equipment, fire prevention and cpr/training for approximately 3,800 participants, establishing the City’s First Annual Fire Safety Day, and continued support of the nationally recognized Safe Kids program.

Maddox is a member of the International Fire Chief’s Association, Georgia Fire Chief’s Association, International Association of Arson Investigators, International Code Council, and Chaplain of the Georgia Fire Investigators Association.

“I am excited to be a part of this team, to build upon the great reputation of the fire department, and to support our citizens,” said Chief Maddox. I thank Mayor and Council for this incredible opportunity.”

For more information about Union City’s Fire Department, please visit www.unioncityga.org.

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