



# News Release

For Immediate Release: October 9, 2018

## **Durham Announces New Fire Department Chief**

DURHAM, N.C. – City Manager Tom Bonfield has named Robert J. Zoldos II as the next chief of the Durham Fire Department.

Chief Zoldos is in his 25<sup>th</sup> year with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Fairfax, Va. He currently serves as the deputy chief of the Health, Safety & Wellness Division of the department after serving over four years as a commander of one-of-three operational shifts. Previously, he served as the commander of the department's world-renowned Urban Search and Rescue Team.

Chief Zoldos has been certified in technical rescue for over 20 years. He was a member of Virginia Task Force One (VATF-1)/USA SAR Team One (USA-1) for over 18 years. VATF-1/USA-1 is one-of-28 United States FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams, and is one of only two domestic teams certified for international deployment by the United States Agency for International Development. Chief Zoldos has been deployed 11 times for international rescue missions to Kenya, Turkey, Taiwan, Iran, Japan, and Haiti. Domestically, Chief Zoldos has been deployed multiple times for hurricanes, including Katrina, and served as a rescue squad officer at the Pentagon after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

According to Bonfield, Chief Zoldos' 25 years of fire services and emergency medical experience as well as his international and national rescue experience makes him a great choice for leading the Durham Fire Department. "Chief Zoldos has an incredible breadth of experience, not only in the fire and emergency medical services, but also in urban search and rescue. With the Durham Fire Department being very active in fire and emergency medical calls as well as in North Carolina Task Force 8, we felt his extensive leadership experience and on-the-ground 'know-how' was a great fit for Durham," Bonfield said. "I also want to thank Interim Chief Chris Iannuzzi for his service in leading the department over the last four months. We are incredibly fortunate to have such talented and dedicated people who provide outstanding public service to this community."

From 1993 to 2004, Zoldos served as an adjunct fire instructor for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Services in Leesburg, Va., and was also a fire rescue specialist for this department in 1994. He also served as a firefighter and emergency medical technician in 1993 for the Fairfax City Fire and Rescue Department in Fairfax, Va. From 1990 to 1992, Zoldos served as an emergency medical technician for Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa.

Zoldos is a graduate of George Mason University (GMU) with a master's degree in Public Administration. He also earned a bachelor's degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences from Pennsylvania State University, and was the Provost Honor Award graduate from the Northern Virginia Community College's Fire Science Associate's Degree Program.

Zoldos was GMU's Alumni of the Year for the Department of Public and International Affairs and was awarded the Wayne F. Anderson Award for Distinguished Public Service in 2010. He is a graduate of the West Point Leadership Course for Public Safety Officers and the Leadership Fairfax Institute, where he was selected as the "Dux" of the class by his peers. He also just finished serving his third and final term as the mayor for the Town of

Lovettsville, Va.

Zoldos succeeds Dan Curia, who retired as fire chief in July 2018. Zoldos' will join the Durham Fire Department on November 13, 2018.

### **About the City of Durham Fire Department**

The [Durham Fire Department](#) strives to enhance the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Durham by minimizing the harmful effects of fires, medical emergencies, and other types of dangerous events. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps create a safer community by conducting fire and life safety education programs; providing emergency responses to fires, medical calls, hazardous materials spills, technical rescue calls, and water rescue calls; explaining and enforcing the fire code; investigating arson and the cause of other fires; and maintaining readiness through constant training and maintenance of facilities and equipment. To learn more, follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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