



DANIEL HARRIGAN, MAYOR

## THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

### DIVISION OF FIRE

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Ohio Metro Chief's Report

July 7, 2021

To: Ohio Fire Chief's Board of Directors

It is my pleasure to serve as the Metro Chief's Committee Chair. The Metro Chiefs have continued to meet monthly via the Zoom Platform. The last year has been busy for Ohio's Metro departments. In the last year, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Canton have changed chiefs.

The new Chiefs are as follows:

Columbus- Chief J Happ

Cincinnati- Chief M Washington

Canton- Chief A Bennett

The committee has increased the number of departments and members over the last year. Through a review of a national database it was discovered that several departments met the requirements for a Metro City. I reached out and invited those departments to join the group.

The Cities added to the Metro Committee are as follows: Parma, Hamilton, Springfield, and Youngstown. Those Chiefs were added in June of 2021, during our June meeting Chief M Mercer from Hamilton joined in the discussion. I anticipate the other Chiefs joining meetings in the future. During the last year this committee has discussed many topics including:

Funding and Civil Unrest

Diversity

Women in the Fire service

First responder behavioral health

ERS

Cares Act Funding

COVID and Vaccinations

Water TAC

A subcommittee of Women in the Fire Service was started in April to address concerns regarding Women in the Fire Service. Assistant Chief Traci Smith from Columbus will be the Chair of this subcommittee and they have developed a meeting schedule and list of topics to address. They are committed and hardworking, I look forward to their progress! Many of the Metro departments are working through contract issues, and it was brought up to start a committee on common contractual issues. Deputy Chief Twigg from Akron has agreed to lead this discussion. Currently the cities of Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton and Toledo are participating in the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to assist the Metro Fire Departments and The Ohio Fire Chief's Association.

Respectfully,

Richard A Vober

