



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEETING MINUTES

Title: Recruiting & Retaining Public Employee Firefighter and Paramedic Task Force

Location: OSFM | 1035 Adlai Stevenson Dr | Springfield, IL. 62703

Date: October 24, 2023 Time: 11:00 am

Present:

Chief Kent Adams | Senator Neil Anderson | Sue Czerwinski | Gina Degleffetti | Brenda Farlow | Deborah Frank Feinen | Representative Jackie Haas | Joseph C. Holomy | Senator Patrick Joyce | Jim Keiken | Representative Mike Kelly | Jeff Maher | Don Moffitt | Steve Shetsky | Regan Stockstell | Chuck Sullivan

Not Present:

Mary Alexander Basta | Nate Rice | Robert William Van Bebber

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- I. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Joyce at 11:00 A.M.
 - II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
 - III. Introduction of Membership
 - IV. Task Force Discussion
 - a. Extension of Task Force deadline to December 31, 2024.
 - b. Meetings will take place across the state.
 - c. Representative Moffitt and Senator Joyce introduced a 2012 Emergency Medical Services Task Force report.
 - d. The task force will discuss different issues and come up with recommendations and potential bills.
 - e. Discussion on the 3 different ways that individuals can become firefighters.
 - f. Discussion on finding an easier pathway for EMS licenses.

- g. EMS positions – Hiring individuals with no experience that have to go through school and training before they can officially begin working.
 - h. Recruitment and Retention – Shortage can cause burnout and affects on their personal life.
 - i. Looking at the new generation and their priorities when looking at employers.
 - i. Work Schedules
 - ii. Firehouse Culture
 - j. Comparison of salaries across departments across the state. Many times, the northern suburbs offer higher salaries.
 - k. EMS exam has changed, and the process has become difficult. Part of the issue is new methodology and instructors learning new ways to teach the course.
 - l. Paramedics shortage is causing firefighters to respond to a higher percentage of EMS calls.
 - m. Community college classes must be approved by medical directors.
 - n. 11 regions all have different rules. Springfield alone has different EMS systems.
 - o. Statistics are not available on how many individuals apply for EMS.
 - p. Restructuring of organizations/Fire Departments will happen over time with the new and younger generations.
 - q. Looking at community colleges to be on the same page about classes and training.
 - i. What is the cost to run these programs?
 - ii. Looking at IDPH input on these training programs.
 - iii. Are exams regional?
 - r. Research information about other states and what strategies are they using.
- V. Public Comment
- a. No public comments
- VI. Adjourned: 12:07PM