

TOWN OF CARRBORO

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News Release

For Release: Immediate
Date: July 26, 2015

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Fire Chief Susanna Williams Appointed to IAFC's Human Relations Committee

Carrboro Fire Chief Susanna Williams was recently appointed to the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Human Relations Committee. The three year appointment beginning on August 1, 2016 is the result of a competitive process. A committee with the IAFC, including the IAFC president, select from the pool of interested persons for who will best serve the membership. Their website states, "The International Association of Fire Chiefs represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide; our members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety policy."



The mission of the IAFC Human Relations Committee is to provide information on how to create, adopt, and implement a sequence of proceedings on interpersonal and intergroup adjustments relative to diversity to the members of the IAFC so they can create, and implement a Value Centered Human Relations Approach program within their own fire department.

Chief Williams holds two bachelor degrees. She earned a Masters in Public Administration from Anna Maria College. She holds many fire service certifications; instructs/presents at the local, state, and national levels; and is co-chair for the NC Accreditation Support Consortium. Chief Williams is a graduate of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute and is currently working on becoming an Executive Fire Officer through the National Fire Academy. She has been with the Town of Carrboro as Fire Chief since July 2015.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected for the IAFC Human Relations Committee. Diversity and inclusion have long been a passion of mine for the fire service," commented Chief Williams. "My personal values, the values of the IAFC, and the values of the Town of Carrboro align in a zero tolerance policy of discrimination as exemplified in the IAFC Human Dignity statement 'as an organization, we must take positive steps to ensure human dignity by avoiding all remaining vestiges of discrimination or unequal treatment including, but not limited to, a basis on race, color, spirituality, gender, age, national origin, ancestry, socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, ethnicity, marital status or any legally protected characteristic. To allow such discrimination or unequal treatment, whether active or passive, weakens our abilities to respond to our varied customer bases.' My hope is that my experiences with the IAFC Human Relations Committee will translate to successes in diversity and inclusion for the NC Fire Service, most notably here in Carrboro."

For more information about the Carrboro Fire Department, please visit www.carrborofire.com.