



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

News Release

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CONTACT: [Vivian Laxton](#)
Communications Director, 301-600-1315

Fire Chief Owens to Retire June 30

FREDERICK, MD – Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner today announced the retirement of Thomas Owens as chief and director of the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, effective June 30, 2019.

“Chief Owens is a consummate professional with 50 years of service with fire and rescue,” said Executive Gardner. “Tom has an incredible list of accomplishments in the last four years, rebuilding and strengthening our fire service and laying a strong foundation for the future.”

“It has been my high honor to serve County Executive Gardner and work alongside the tremendous men and women of DRFS and our strong combination fire-rescue system,” Chief Owens said. “I feel incredibly fulfilled by what we have been able to accomplish in Frederick County.”

During his tenure, Chief Owens has brought a high level of professionalism to a growing division. Over the past four years, 115 new career firefighter positions were added, allowing the County to begin transition to tactical unit staffing. The Division Fire and Rescue Services earned state and national recognition under Chief Owens’ supervision. The EMS training programs earned national accreditation, and in 2018, Frederick County was named Outstanding EMS System by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

Chief Owens will retire from Frederick County Government with 50 years of fire and emergency service experience. He began as a volunteer firefighter at age 16 and rose through the ranks to become chief for two combination career and volunteer fire departments. Executive Gardner re-appointed him to the position of Chief in March of 2015, after a previous term from 2010 – 2013. Prior to his time in Frederick County, Chief Owens served as fire chief of the City of Fairfax, Va. He also has served fire departments in Winchester, Va., Fairfax County, Va., Loudoun County, Va., Prince William County Va., and Washington, D.C.

Deputy Chief Thomas Coe, who is currently managing operations, will serve as acting director for the Division of Fire and Rescue Services. “I am confident Deputy Chief Coe will ensure a smooth leadership transition,” Executive Gardner said.

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