



Statement from IAFC President, Chief John S. Butler

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2024

As the President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I take immense pride in acknowledging the dedication and exceptional service of our members. Today, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Retired Battalion Chief Diane Schroder of the Louisville (CO) Fire Protection District for her outstanding work as the Co-Lead of the IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program (iDELP) in 2023.

Chief Schroder's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity within the fire service has been exemplary. Her leadership and vision have significantly contributed to the success of iDELP, making a lasting impact on the program and its participants. Her efforts in championing diversity have not only enhanced the program but also reinforced our core values at IAFC. On behalf of the entire association, I thank Chief Schroder for her invaluable service and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

In line with our commitment to leadership and diversity, I am also pleased to announce the following appointments:

- Captain Jason Shanley of the San Diego (CA) Fire-Rescue Department will be stepping into the role of iDELP Co-Lead. Captain Shanley's experience and dedication to promoting diversity within the fire service make him an ideal fit for this position. We are confident that his leadership will continue to drive the iDELP program forward, building on the strong foundation laid by his predecessors.
- Spencer Cheatham of the West Point (VA) Fire Department has been appointed to the USFA Recruitment and Retention Working Group. Chief Cheatham's expertise and insight will be invaluable in our efforts to address the crucial areas of recruitment and retention in the fire service.

These appointments reflect IAFC's ongoing commitment to developing leadership and promoting diversity within the fire service. Please join me in congratulating Captain Shanley and Chief Cheatham on their new roles and in expressing our collective appreciation for Chief Schroder's remarkable contributions.

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About the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials response, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety policy. Since 1873, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally and uncover the latest best practices and services available for first responders. IAFC Headquarters is located in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area at 8251 Greensboro Drive, Suite 650, McLean, VA 22102, and can be reached by phone at 703-273-0911.

