



# News Release for Colerain Fire

## For Immediate Release

Date: **January 5, 2015**

It is with great pleasure that the Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS announces Assistant Chief **Frank Cook** as the new **Fire Chief** of the Department. Public Safety Services Director Dan Meloy recommended Chief Cook's appointment after the announcement of Chief Bruce Smith's upcoming retirement. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the recommendation at the December 16<sup>th</sup> Township Meeting.

*"We are excited that a leader of Chief Cook's caliber was available for such an important position in the Township. Chief Cook brings experience, skill and leadership to the table and has the respect of every member of the Colerain Township Fire Department. With Chief Cook's vision and leadership, the Department and the Township are in great hands."* - **Dan Meloy**

Chief Cook has always been considered a pioneer. He was one of the first African American firefighters hired by the Township in 1984 and now becomes the first African American department head as the Township makes strides in fielding a workforce that is as diverse as the community it serves.

One of Chief Cook's first priorities will be to communicate a vision and strategic plan to the Department's 180 personnel.

*"My vision is rather wide-ranging. I want to sustain and build upon our successes which have allowed us to be recognized by our community as an agency that delivers high-quality emergency and non-emergency services with a commitment to excellence. I want to demonstrate dynamic continuous improvement that results in our employees being masters of their craft with a focus on action and strength in relationships. Lastly, I want to invest in our workforce through comprehensive and effective planning, the development and enhancement of comprehensive training and education programs, improved uses of technology, and through proactive communication initiatives."* - **Chief Frank Cook**

At the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, Township Trustees also approved the promotion of Battalion Chief **Allen Walls** to the position of **Assistant Chief of Administrative Services**.

Although the promotions were in effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief's Cook and Walls' first day in office will be Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. **Congratulations Chief Cook and Assistant Chief Walls.**

Inquiries may be directed to PIO Captain Steve Conn at 513-615-8698, [sconn@colerain.org](mailto:sconn@colerain.org),

Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS  
3251 Springdale Road  
Colerain Township, OH 45251  
513-825-6143



Twitter: Colerain\_Fire

## **Chief Frank Cook Biography**

Chief Cook began his career with Colerain Township Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services in October 1984 as a part-time firefighter and emergency medical technician, and achieved the rank of Assistant Fire Chief in March 2014 serving as the Department's Administrative Services Chief. During his tenure, he also served at the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief. In addition, he was employed by the Evendale Fire Department from April 1987 until December 1989.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Chief Cook graduated from Western Hills High School. His formal academic achievements include: an A.S. Degree in Fire Science Technology from Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, a B.S. Degree in Fire Safety and Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Public Administration Degree from Northern Kentucky University. He's a graduate of the National Fire Academy's four-year Executive Fire Officer's Program (EFOP), which awarded him the title of Executive Fire Officer. As a student of the EFOP, he completed four applied research projects that were published and archived (based on academic evaluation) in the National Emergency Training Center's Learning Resource Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Chief Cook is also a graduate of the Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute presented at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2013, he was conferred with the honorific Chief Fire Officer designation by the Commission on Professional Credentialing which acknowledges his educational achievements, demonstration of leadership and management skills, and professional contributions.

### **Professional Affiliations:**

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Black Professional Firefighters - Chief Officer's Committee
- National Society of Executive Fire Officers
- American Society of Public Administration
- Ohio Fire Chiefs Association
- Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Cook resides in Colerain Township with his wife and two children.



**Fire Chief Frank Cook**

Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS  
3251 Springdale Road  
Colerain Township, OH 45251  
513-825-6143



Twitter: Colerain\_Fire

## **Assistant Chief Allen Walls Biography**

Allen Walls was born and raised in Fishers, Indiana. He attended Ball State University and received a B.S. in Biology and a Minor in History. Following graduation he worked for various research and technical based organizations finally settling in Cincinnati to work as a Research Assistant at the University of Cincinnati in the Division of Plastic, Hand and Reconstructive Surgery.

Allen's fire service career began in 1995 as a volunteer with the New Burlington Volunteer Fire Department. His tenure with Colerain Township Fire and EMS began in 1996 as a part-time firefighter/EMT. He worked full-time as a firefighter for the City of Harrison from 1998-2000 leaving there for full-time employment with Colerain Township where he has held the positions of firefighter/paramedic, Captain, Division Chief of Training, and most recently as Battalion Chief and Unit 1 Shift Commander. He has also worked part-time as an EMS instructor for Loveland-Symmes and Stonelick Township Fire Departments, as an Adjunct Instructor with Cincinnati State in their EMT and paramedic education programs, and has been a part-time paramedic for the Western Joint Ambulance District since 2000.

Chief Walls is currently completing the final requirements for the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD and was a recipient of the 2013 Executive Fire Officer Program Outstanding Research Award, which was titled "An Analysis of Response Times for the Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS".

### **Professional Affiliations**

Ohio Fire Chiefs Association  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Allen and his wife, Tia, live in Bright, Indiana and have five children. One is attending Northern Kentucky University for her B.S.N. Another is attending Ivy Tech Community College, and the other three are currently serving in the U.S. Army with one currently deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Resolute Support.



**Asst. Fire Chief Allen Walls**

Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS  
3251 Springdale Road  
Colerain Township, OH 45251  
513-825-6143



Twitter: Colerain\_Fire