

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE TO PROMOTE NINE**

SUFFOLK, VA (December 29, 2011) The City of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department will hold a promotional ceremony on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chamber located at 441 Market Street. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Suffolk Fire and Rescue promotions are as follows:

**Captain Select: Lieutenant Demitri Wilson**

Lieutenant Demitri Wilson joined the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue on July 16, 1999. Following graduation from the Southside Regional Fire Academy, Lieutenant Wilson was assigned to Station 1, Engine Company 1. On February 15, 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned to Rescue Company 1, B Shift, until January 2011. On January 18, 2011, Lieutenant Wilson was reassigned to Engine Company 3, B Shift as the "Acting Captain."

Lieutenant Wilson has numerous qualifications and holds many fire service certifications including Heavy Tactical Rescue Technician, Rope Rescue Instructor, Instructor II, and Officer II. He also obtained his Associates Degree in

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Fire Science from Tidewater Community College. Lieutenant Wilson currently oversees the department's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Maintenance Division.

Lieutenant Wilson is a native of Virginia Beach. He is happily married to Heather Ann and they have two children, Demetri, 15, and Ryleigh, 1.

**Captain Select: Lieutenant Leon Ratliff**

Lieutenant Leon Ratliff joined the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue on March 1, 1998. Following graduation from the Southside Regional Fire Academy, Lieutenant Ratliff was assigned to Station 10. On February 15, 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned to Station 8, B Shift.

Lieutenant Ratliff has been in charge and involved with the Southside Regional Fire Academy for ten academies over the course of his career. He is currently assigned to the Training Division and is in charge of the Southside Regional Fire Academy Class 50, currently being held in Suffolk with 28 fire recruits.

Lieutenant Ratliff holds numerous qualifications and fire services certifications, including Firefighter I and II, Train the Trainer, Mayday Firefighter Down Train the Trainer, Instructor II, and Fire Officer II. Lieutenant Ratliff earned his Adjunct Instructor certification in August 2011, and is currently employed with the State of Virginia on a part-time basis.

Lieutenant Ratliff was born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, and currently resides in Ivor, Virginia. He is happily married to Traci and has five children.

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**Captain Select: Lieutenant Scott Brower**

Lieutenant Scott Brower joined the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department on September 15, 1997, and graduated from the Southside Regional Fire Academy in 1998. Lieutenant Brower was assigned as a Firefighter to Engine Company 2, B Shift and later Engine Company 8, B Shift.

Lieutenant Brower was promoted to Lieutenant in February 2003, and was subsequently assigned to Engine Company 8, C Shift; Ladder Company 3, C Shift; Ladder Company 5, C Shift; Ladder Company 5, B Shift; Officer in Charge at the Southside Regional Fire Academy, Ladder Company 3, B Shift; and Engine Company 3, B Shift. Lieutenant Brower is currently serving as the acting Captain for Engine Company 3, C Shift. He is also an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate.

Lieutenant Brower's education has included the Fire Science Program at Tidewater Community College, Hampton Roads Fire Officer Command School Program in 2006, as well as various National Fire Academy, Virginia Department of Fire Program and State Emergency Medical Service classes. Lieutenant Brower is also responsible for the maintenance and annual testing of all Fire Department ladders and aerial devices.

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Lieutenant Brower, a third generation Firefighter, began his passion for the fire service as a volunteer with the Millstone Fire Department in New Jersey in 1980. He then served in the United States Navy and was assigned to the aircraft carriers U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln and U.S.S. Enterprise. He reached the rank of Fire Marshal and was awarded the honor of Sailor of the Year while assigned to the U.S.S. Enterprise. Lieutenant Brower is also a life member of the Carrollton Volunteer Fire Department, serving from 1988 through 2008, reaching the rank of Assistant Fire Chief.

A New Jersey native, Lieutenant Brower is married to Carrie. He has two

sons, Benjamin, 23 (also a Suffolk Firefighter currently assigned to Station 1A), daughter-in-law Laura, and Daniel, 13, as well as stepsons Isaac, 15, Jacob, 13, and Kaleb, 10.

**Lieutenant Select: Firefighter Steven Henkle**

Steven Henkle joined the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue in November 2001. Firefighter Henkle graduated from the Southside Regional Fire Academy as a member of Class 27.

Henkle is currently assigned as the Driver/Operator of Engine Company 2, which is located at Fire Station 1, and also assists in the breathing apparatus repair and maintenance for the department.

Firefighter Henkle is married to his wife of nine years, Jessica. They have two children, Alyssa, 6, and Addison, 3.

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**Lieutenant Select: Senior Firefighter Brian Bunting**

Senior Firefighter Brian Bunting joined the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department on October 1, 2001, after previously serving with the Chesapeake Fire Department since 1996. Senior Firefighter Bunting began firefighting in 1990 as a volunteer with the Driver Fire Department.

Senior Firefighter Bunting has been a Senior Firefighter for five years. During his ten years with the Suffolk Fire Department, he has been assigned to Stations 1, 7, 3, 5.

Senior Firefighter Bunting holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science along with additional education for Fire Officer II and Instructor II.

A Suffolk native, Senior Firefighter Bunting graduated from John Yeates High School in 1990 and currently resides in the City of Suffolk. He is married to Kelly and they have two children, Madeline, 10, and Collin, 3.

**Lieutenant Select: Firefighter II Nicholas Savage**

Firefighter Nicholas Savage joined the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department on September 15, 2004. Initially assigned to Station 4, B Shift, Savage's additional assignments have included Engine Company 8, Shift B; Engine Company 3, Shift B; Ladder Company 3, Shift B; and, most recently, Ladder Company 3, Shift C.

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Firefighter Savage started his firefighting career at a very young age when he joined the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department in June of 2000. From there, Savage attended and graduated from the Tidewater Regional Fire Academy class # 89, receiving an award for Outstanding Application of Practical Skills. Firefighter Savage is currently still an active member with the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department, having achieved the rank of Captain.

Firefighter Savage achieved the rank of Firefighter II in 2006. He is also a MAYDAY Instructor in the department. In 2011, Firefighter Savage completed an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and also has certifications from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and National Fire Academy.

Firefighter Savage is a Smithfield, Virginia native. In March of 2011, Firefighter Savage is married to Valerie. They live in Smithfield with their yellow lab, Teal.

#### **Lieutenant Select: Firefighter Keith Johnson**

Firefighter Keith Johnson joined the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department in March 2004. Firefighter Johnson was part of the Southside Regional Fire Academy's Class 31, the "Sweat Hogs." Johnson was initially assigned to Station 3 and has served his entire career there, with the exception of a fourteen-month stay at Station 8.

Firefighter Johnson was part of the first paramedic class, sponsored by the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department through Tidewater Community College. Firefighter Johnson is currently assigned to Ladder Company 3, where he provides Advanced Life Support medical treatment as a paramedic.

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Firefighter Johnson was born and raised in Franklin, Virginia, where he currently resides. He is the oldest of five children and the proud son of John Wayne and Barbara Johnson.

**Lieutenant Select: Firefighter Eric Mathews**

Firefighter Eric Mathews joined the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue on March 1, 2001. Firefighter Mathews graduated from the Southside Regional Fire Academy as a member of Class 26. After graduation, Mathews was assigned to Fire Station 7 as a firefighter on Engine 7. In January 2002, Firefighter Mathews was reassigned to Station 1 as a firefighter on Engine 1, where he became Driver/Operator of Engine 1 until present.

Firefighter Mathews holds several certifications from Virginia Department of Fire Programs to include Fire Officer I and II as well as Fire Instructor I and II.

Firefighter Mathews has been married to Christy for seven years and resides in Chesapeake, Virginia. They have two sons, Noah Knowles, 13 and Brady Mathew, 4.

**Lieutenant Select: Firefighter Linwood Baker**

Firefighter Lin Baker joined the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department on June 16, 2000. Firefighter Baker was a part of the Southside Regional Fire Academy Class 25 and graduated on January 18, 2001. Baker was assigned to C Shift, Battalion 1, Station 4. Firefighter Baker was reassigned to Engine 2 in February 2002. In February 2003, Baker was assigned to the B Shift for Battalion 1 as a Field Incident Technicians (FIT). After three years on B shift, Firefighter Baker was transferred to the A shift as the Battalion 1 FIT.

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Firefighter Baker is currently certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Enhanced, Fire Instruction I, Fire Officer I, and has 11.5 years of experience in the fire service.

Firefighter Baker is married to Darlene and they have two sons, Chase and Alex. The Bakers reside in Chesapeake, Virginia.

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