



Lakewood Fire District No. 1

316 River Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2017

Subject: Expansion of Career Fire Department

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EXPANSION OF CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners is excited to announce that Lakewood Fire District No. 1 is in the process of adding four career firefighters to the Lakewood Fire Department and promoting three fire officers from within the Department. The goal is to have the additional firefighters and officers in place shortly after the New Year, increasing the number of career personnel from twelve to sixteen. At that time each crew or platoon will be comprised of three firefighters and one fire officer. In addition, beginning November 19, 2017, the career firefighters will respond as a complete Fire Firefighting Unit from Station 74 which is located at 735 Cedarbridge Avenue. The realignment of working hours, addition of four personnel and the reduction of overtime has allowed the Fire Department to move forward without additional costs to taxpayers. Some additional benefits as a result of these changes are as follows:

- Enhance the provision of fire protection and fire suppression to the community.
- Comply with provisions of the Incident Command System and provide proper supervision on the emergency scene.
- Allow the firefighting crew to operate as an intact team thereby providing for improved safety of citizens as well as emergency personnel.
- Provide for immediate access to major fire routes.
- Provide for a quick response to emergency incidents considering the traffic patterns in the Township.
- Proximity to Life Hazards - Senior Residences, Lakewood Airport, Industrial areas, etc.
- Proactive response to current as well as future development.

It is important to mention the Fire District has added seven volunteer firefighters this year to their active volunteer firefighting force of 78 members. Furthermore, recruitment of volunteer firefighters and fire-police remains ongoing and the Lakewood Fire District Board of Fire

Commissioners, along with Lakewood Fire Department Fire Chief Mike D'Elia, continue to seek individuals who have a desire to serve the Lakewood Community in one of these capacities. Individuals interested in becoming firefighters or fire-police are encouraged to visit the Fire District Website at lakewoodfd.org and submit the requested information expressing their interest through the "Join the Lakewood Fire Department" link.

The Fire Commissioners and Administrative Staff, along with District Professionals, have worked tirelessly to address fire service needs so as to efficiently and effectively maximize fire protection within the community. This has been accomplished within the fiscal constraints of the taxpayers. The Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners will continue to address the changing needs of the community and its expanding population and development. In closing, the electorate at the November 7, 2017, General Election, affirmatively voted for Denise Gregory to fill the three-year term as Fire Commissioner. The Board of Fire Commissioners look forward to working with Commissioner-Elect Gregory.