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FDNY Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro, fourth from left, and Chief of Department James Leonard, center, congratulated the officers during the swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 30. From left are Chief of EMS Communications Anthony Napoli; Chief of Training Stephen Raynis; Deputy Fire Commissioner, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Pamela Lassiter; Chief of Operations John Sudnik; Chief of EMS James Booth; Assistant Chief of EMS Michael Fitton and Chief of Fire Prevention Ronald Spadafora.

The FDNY celebrated the future on Jan. 30, swearing in the first-ever Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and promoting six senior Fire and EMS officers at FDNY Headquarters.

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The officers were applauded as the ceremony came to a close on Jan. 30.

“These men and women will help us move forward in a new and exciting direction,” said Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro.

During the ceremony, Pamela Lassiter was sworn in as Deputy Fire Commissioner, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. In addition, six chiefs were promoted, including John Sudnik to Chief of Operations, Stephen Raynis to Chief of Training, Ronald Spadafora to Chief of Fire Prevention, James Booth to Chief of EMS, Michael Fitton to Assistant Chief of EMS and Anthony Napoli to Chief of EMS Communications.

“They make us so much stronger as a Department,” Chief of Department James Leonard said. ■

Meet 'Probie' Akira Rodriguez



Join FDNY always likes to see our Probationary Firefighters taking the initiative to use social media in a career productive way. Enter "Probie" Akira Rodriguez.

After experiencing what it is like to be a Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program (FFCMP) Mentee, he contacted Join FDNY on social media to inform us that he wanted to serve as a Junior Mentor in the program. It was just a few days after he graduated from the Fire Academy in November 2014 and he explained that he is

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'Probie' is Serving as a Junior Mentor

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passionate about continuing the program's "important tradition."

The FFCMP pairs Firefighter candidates with experienced Firefighters who serve as their Mentors. The Mentees are provided with guidance during the Firefighter hiring process, and if they become Probationary Firefighters, throughout the Fire Academy.

As a Junior Mentor, Rodriguez along with other "Probies," participate in different Firefighter events to discuss their experiences with joining the Department.

"Getting this job is really tough and it is important to have someone who you can contact when you have questions," Rodriguez said. "My mentor Chris Myers was always calling me to check up on me and giving me helpful training advice, which helped me feel like I was a part of a family. Now it's my turn to help continue this tradition and do what I can to help other people get ready for this job."

The "Probie," who has also served as a U.S. Marine for 10 years, said he wants all future "Probies" to know that it is true when they hear that being a New York City Firefighter is the

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best job in the world. In addition, he noted that all future "Probies" should remember that it takes "true dedication and discipline" to succeed in the Fire Academy.

"Getting through the Academy is all about hard work and you have to force yourself to stay focused, train, study, and really do what is required to get through it," he said, adding that he disconnected his cable during his 18-week training at the Fire Academy to help eliminate distractions from studying. "We trained at a very intense pace at the Fire Academy and it really requires a lot of discipline."

He also said he enjoys his new job, because it is one where he is continuously learning.

"I love my job and it has similarities to serving in military, which helped me transition into this new career," he said. "Not many people get to say they love their job, but I am one of them. I'm helping people and learning a lot."

Rodriguez, 31, is serving as one of New York's Bravest at Engine 307 in Queens. ■

#FFCMP

FDNY Pays Tribute to Dr. King



FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety students, from left, Jessica Murphy, Deshaun Gall, Delon Jacobs, Iyana Curtis and Isayah Genyard recited excerpts from Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech during the Department's celebration on Jan. 16.

The FDNY honored the memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a tribute celebration at FDNY Headquarters on Jan. 16.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro and Deputy Commissioner Pamela Lassiter were among the many distinguished speakers at the event commemorating the work of the civil rights leader.

Students from the FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety also performed a powerful rendition

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FDNY Firefighters, including members of the Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program (FFCMP), mentored high school students on Jan. 19 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

of the “I Have a Dream” speech.

In addition, numerous Department members, including our Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program (FFCMP) Junior Mentors, also volunteered to mentor high school students throughout Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan 19.

For more information about the events that took place during that important day of community service, visit www.nycservice.org. ■

Did You Know That?

- There are 10,332 uniformed fire personnel members in the FDNY, which includes Firefighters and Fire Officers.
- The FDNY has 218 firehouses.
- FDNY Firefighters responded to 503,668 incidents in 2014, including 25,902 structural fires.
- Five hundred and twenty eight new FDNY Fire Recruits and 544 Fire Officers were trained at the Bureau of Training in 2014.
- FDNY Fire Officers and Firefighters conducted



92,827 inspections in 2014.

- Electrical, smoking, open flame (match, candle, etc.), careless cooking and appliances were the top five causes of accidental fires in New York City in 2014. ■

UWF to Host Training for Candidates

The United Women Firefighters (UWF) is scheduled to host physical fitness training for women firefighter candidates in February at the New York Sports Club on Wall Street in New York City. The club is located at 30 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. To be eligible to participate, every candidate must bring a gym lock, at least a 50



pound vest, fitness clothes and sneakers, water and a medical waiver. In addition, every candidate should attend the training properly hydrated and fueled and ready for an intense workout. Please note that these workout sessions are designed to prepare candidates for the physical training at the Fire Academy. To register for the sessions, please e-mail UWF President Sarinya Srisakul at sarinyyya@yahoo.com.

February 2015 UWF Training Schedule

Feb. 8, 15 and 22 at 12 p.m.

Feb. 12, 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Firefighter 101: Hydrants

The primary agent used by the FDNY to extinguish fires is water. The primary source of water for fire-fighting operations is hydrants. Engine companies carry water in booster tanks and they are capable of drafting water from static sources such as rivers or lakes.

The Smith Low Pressure Hydrant, Dresser Low Pressure Hydrant, Chapman and Eddy Hydrant and High Pressure Hydrant will be reviewed during Probationary Firefighter School. Want to read more about this topic? Check out the “Probie” Manual on our website. <http://on.nyc.gov/1Kea0tF> ■

Don't Procrastinate! Start Studying Today!

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RECRUITMENT CORNER

FDNY HS Alumni Get Sworn In as Dispatchers



Seven FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety Class of 2013 graduates were sworn in as Emergency Medical Dispatchers on Jan. 26 at FDNY Headquarters in Brooklyn. FDNY Assistant Commissioner for Recruitment and Diversity Michele Maglione, right, congratulated them for their outstanding achievement.

From left are, counterclockwise, Antwan Carter, Syhon Rivers, Richie Rene, Andrew Davis, Dustin Oyola, Imani Grimes and Hyron Robinson. **#FDNYHS #FDNYfamily** ■