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## Daniel Nigro Named 33rd Fire Commissioner



*Mr. Nigro was appointed as the 33rd Fire Commissioner by Mayor Bill de Blasio.*

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on May 9, 2014 the appointment of Daniel Nigro to serve as the 33rd FDNY Fire Commissioner.

“He is an exemplary leader – a born leader,” Mayor de Blasio said during the announcement at the FDNY Fire Academy. “And he has a real love for this Department.”

A 32-year veteran of the FDNY, Commissioner Nigro served as Chief of Department after Sept. 11, 2001, leading the FDNY through search, rescue and recovery.

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# New Fire Commissioner is Appointed

## Story continued from front page

ery operations at the World Trade Center site. He also was instrumental in merging the FDNY and New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation's EMS division in 1996.

"Thank you for having faith in me to lead the Department at this exciting time," Mr. Nigro said. "As we have always said, this is the greatest job in the world and I look forward to taking it into a future that will make all New Yorkers proud."

Son of a FDNY fire captain, Mr. Nigro began his career as a firefighter in 1969, and served as a Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx. Throughout his distinguished career, he has worked as Chief of Uniformed Personnel, Chief of Health Services, Battalion and Deputy Chief, Deputy Assistant Chief of Operations, Chief of EMS and citywide tour commander.

In 1999, he was appointed Chief of Operations, where he maintained preparedness, staffing and availability of units for fire and emergency response, and instituted a program to oversee key areas of accountability.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Mr. Nigro was appointed Chief of Department upon the death of his close friend Chief Peter J. Ganci, Jr., at the World Trade Center. In this role, he was instrumental in guiding the Department through its loss after 9/11, and assisted in providing plans to move the Department forward.

Of the appointment, Lt. Christopher Ganci, son of Chief of Department Ganci, said, "My dad would be beaming with pride to see this momentous day."

# Meet 'Probie' Franklin Richardson

“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work” is the phrase that FDNY Probationary Firefighter Franklin Richardson uses as inspiration when he serves at Engine 15 in New York City.

While completing the Fire Academy last year, Richardson noted that he experienced first-hand how teamwork can help with overcoming difficult challenges.

“At the Fire Academy, there are squads and study groups and you learn very quickly that you have to



work as a team to accomplish a goal,” he explained. “Working as a team is also how we operate at the firehouse, because we work together each day to help the communities in New York City. It’s all about teamwork here.”

Working as one of New York’s Bravest, he said, is also a great fit for his personality

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# ‘Probie’ is Now Serving as a Junior Mentor

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because he is a family man, who likes to help others.

“The firehouse is a very family-orientated environment and coming from a large family, I really like that part about this job,” he said. “You always hear FDNY Firefighters say that they have the best job in the world, and now that I am working here, I can honestly say that it’s true. This is the best job and I love working here.”

Richardson was also a Mentee in the FDNY’s Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program, which pairs Firefighter Candidates with experienced Firefighters, who serve as their Mentors. He noted that his Mentor, Firefighter Antoine Richard, informed him about what to expect during the challenging 18-week Fire Academy training. In addition to running and lifting weights five times a week, Richardson said speaking with his Mentor helped him to prepare mentally and physically for the job.

And now he is helping other Firefighter Candidates by serving as a Junior Mentor in the program.

“I love being a Junior Mentor because it’s giving me the chance to pay it forward,” he said. “I recently completed the Fire Academy and I believe sharing my experiences will help other people get better prepared for this job. Helpful information goes a long way when you’re preparing for this job.”

# FDNY Firefighting Sisters Update



**P**osted on the walls of the Office of Recruitment and Diversity is a photo featuring the FDNY's first female Firefighter siblings Kinga Kusek, left, and Daiana Mielnik. The two Firefighters headlined our 2006 Recruitment Campaign, and the poster was entitled Sisters by Birth, Firefighters by Choice. Join FDNY decided to catch up with

these two siblings to see how life as an FDNY Firefighter has been going for them.

Since being featured in our photo, Kinga said she is still working at a job that she really loves. She recently completed her 10th year of service at Engine 282 in Brooklyn.

In addition, Kinga is now a mother of three boys. Even more remarkable is that her youngest son, Adrian Storm, was delivered during a home birth at Daiana's apartment in the middle of Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Kinga recalled that her water broke right when the storm increased its intensity and while it was flooding on Daiana's Brooklyn block. She planned to have a home birth and was past her due date, but did not plan to deliver during a natural disaster. Her son's middle name pays tribute to his unique delivery.

She explained, however, that being a working mother has been a wonderful experience, mainly because of her job's flexible schedule. Her regular

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# Firefighting Sisters Continue Their Success

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routine includes visits to the park and other kid fun places with her sons. She is now expecting her fourth child with her husband, Pawel, and they are waiting until the delivery to find out the baby's gender.

And Daiana echoed her big sister's sentiments in her update discussion, saying that serving as one of New York's Bravest was and still is the best job in the world. She has served at Engine 276 in Brooklyn for nine years.

"Being a New York City Firefighter is a great, fun and exciting job and I really love it," she said. "We're one big family that helps people and that makes the job really special."

Daiana also noted that while working as a Firefighter, she utilized the Department's School Variance Program to attend nursing school. In 2011, she officially became a



**Kinga Kusek, left, and Daiana Mielnik are continuing their success as FDNY firefighters.**

registered nurse, which, she said, is another way for her to help others.

And she added that along with reaching her 10th year of service, she is looking forward to celebrating the birth of her new nephew or niece.

# UWF to Host Training for Candidates

The United Women Firefighters (UWF) is scheduled to host physical fitness training for women firefighter candidates in June 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 have 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 [womenrecruitfdny-subscribe@yahogroup.com](mailto:womenrecruitfdny-subscribe@yahogroup.com).



## June 2014 UWF Training Schedule

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

June 15, 22 and 29 at 12 p.m.

## RECRUITMENT CORNER

# FDNY HS Hosts Eighth Annual EMS Games



**T**he Eighth Annual FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety EMS Games was a special one on May 16, 2014, with 36 city students participating in the challenging event.

During the competition, two teams from the FDNY High School, as well as one team from Grace Dodge Career and Technical Education High School faced off in the highly competitive College Bowl, Tech Bag Relay, Rapid Take-Down and Spelling Bee games.

## RECRUITMENT CORNER

# FDNY HS Hosts Eighth Annual EMS Games



Each year, students utilize their academic, athletic and life-saving skills to succeed in the competition, which also emphasizes the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship and perseverance.

After a morning of friendly competi-

tion at Fort Totten in Queens, the FDNY High School's orange team was named this year's first place winner. The high school's blue team took home second place honors.

Located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Brooklyn, the high school is a small thematic school that serves students in 9th through 12th grades.

The annual games are part of a host of educational initiatives that help to educate the students about the paramedic and EMT careers.