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First Deputy Fire Commissioner Appointed



Fire Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro swore in Robert R. Turner II as First Deputy Fire Commissioner, the second-highest civilian rank in the FDNY, on Aug. 11. The 36-year veteran of the FDNY most recently served as a Battalion Chief in Queens.

“There are a lot of happy people here today, but no one is happier than I am,” Commissioner Nigro said. “He has shaped the current and future leaders of the Department.

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Robert Turner Takes Oath of Office

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He left every firehouse in which he has worked better than before.”

Commissioner Turner began his career in 1978, assigned to Engine 222 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and, later, Ladder 175 in East New York, Brooklyn. In 1986, he was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to Engine 1 in Midtown Manhattan. He then was promoted to captain in 1992, returning to work in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, at Engine 214. In 1999, he was promoted to battalion chief and assigned to Battalion 46 in Elmhurst, Queens.

Most recently, Commissioner Turner served as the director of the First Line Supervisor Training Program (FLIPS), overseeing the training of all newly promoted FDNY lieutenants, as well as fire officers throughout New York State.

“I’m so proud and honored to be selected for this position at the premier fire department in the world,” Commissioner Turner said. “I’ve received so much support from everyone here today, it’s been overwhelming.”

Commissioner Turner is a graduate of the FDNY

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Robert Turner Takes Oath of Office

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Officers Management Institute (FOMI), and has received advanced leadership training from University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School.

In 1985, Commissioner Turner was cited for bravery and awarded the Brooklyn Citizens Medal for responding off-duty to a fire in his Queens neighborhood. Two hours into January 1984, Turner ran barefoot from his home to aid and remove three neighbors from a fast-moving fire, before returning to attempt to remove a fourth occupant. He suffered serious burns and lacerations to both arms during the fire, operating on his own and without protective gear before additional units arrived.

He holds a Bachelors' degree in Public Administration from John Jay College, where he also served as an adjunct instructor teaching courses on emergency action plans and training fire safety directors.

Born in Brooklyn, Commissioner Turner was raised in Queens, where he currently resides with his wife Tamara. His father, Robert R. Turner, also held the rank of Battalion Chief, serving the Department for 41 years. ■

Meet 'Probie' Vanessa Schoening

Vanessa Schoening

AGE: 37
 SERVICE: 33
 UNIT: 1784B

"For seven and a half years, I've been with the Fire Department of New York as an EMT. Now I'm a firefighter. It's kind of like a promotion for me."



Tribes: The Graduates

The four women who will join the FDNY this year.

THE FIRST YEAR the FDNY allowed women to take the Fire Academy's entrance exam—which involves not just a written exam but also tests of physical strength—was 1976. Not incidentally, that year the FDNY administered what some thought was its hardest version ever, and all the women who applied failed the physical portion. After an 1892 lawsuit, the FDNY changed the test and admitted its first women. In June of this year, 286 probationary firefighters ("probies") graduated from the academy on Randall's Island. The newly minted firefighters pictured here bring the number of women in the FDNY to a grand total of 41—out of 10,400 firefighters and officers across the city. [www.nycfdny.com](#)

Serving as an FDNY Probationary Firefighter is all about being dedicated to learning and hard work, according to "Probie" Vanessa Schoening.

After serving as an FDNY EMT for seven and a half years, Schoening completed Promotional Exam #2500 in 2011 to become a New York City Firefighter. And she contends that each day on the job is a new learning experience.

"I'm adapting and learning something new every day," Schoening explained. "Everyone at the firehouse has great knowledge to share, which is great for me to take in. There's a lot to learn and you never stop learning on this job."

To prepare for the Fire Academy, she trained four times a week, which included running and hill

FDNY Probationary Firefighter Vanessa Schoening, along with three other female FDNY "Probies," was featured in New York Magazine on Aug. 11.

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Mentee Helps to Break Down Career Barrier

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Sprints, and she reviewed the Probationary Firefighter Manual four times a week. The 27-year-old was also a Mentee in the Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program, which gives Firefighter Candidates the opportunity to learn from veteran Firefighters. During the 18-week training at the Fire Academy, she said her Mentor, Firefighter Fabio Valencia helped her remain focus on the goal: Graduation.

“When I was training in the Academy, my Mentor Fabio always told me to keep my head in the game and reach for the prize,” Schoening recalled. “There were rough days in the Academy, but he always kept a positive attitude and he knew that I could make it, which helped me out a lot.”

When she graduated from the Fire Academy on June 3, Schoening also became one of four new female firefighters in the Department. It’s a non-traditional job for women, but she noted, that becoming a Firefighter has motivated her to help inspire young women to follow in her footsteps. And news about her achievement, as well as the other latest female “Probies,” was featured in the Aug. 11 issue of New York Magazine.

“There are children, especially the little girls, who can't believe that there are really female Firefighters working in their communities,” she explained. “It's great to be approached by them and asked to take a picture with them. When they leave, they always say ‘I want to be a Firefighter now’ and that also makes this a great job to have.”

Schoening is now serving as one of New York’s Bravest at Engine 33 in Manhattan. ■

Another Round of CPAT Training Coming Soon



The FDNY is currently gearing up for another round of Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) Training at Randall's Island. The first session will be held on September 15, 2014.

The free training, which is held five days a week, allows candidates to practice the physical exam's Stair Climb, Hose Drag, Equipment Carry, Ladder Raise and Extension, Forcible Entry, Search, Rescue, and Ceiling Breach and Pull evolutions.

If you are a firefighter candidate who is completing processing, the FDNY strongly encourages you to participate in this important physical preparation program.

*** Please note that this story is for informational purposes only. Candidates are contacted in list number order to participate in CPAT Training. To be eligible for the program, your list number must be called. ■**

As participants in the FDNY's Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) Training at Randall's Island, candidates practice components of the challenging exam including the Ceiling Breach and Pull.

UWF to Host Training for Candidates

The United Women Firefighters (UWF) is scheduled to host physical fitness training for women firefighter candidates in September 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 womenrecruitfdny-subscribe@yahoo.com.



September 2014 UWF Training Schedule

Sept. 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 21 and 28 at 12 p.m.

FFCMP Hosts Mentor-Mentee Day in the Park

The FDNY Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program (FFCMP) hosted its Inaugural Mentor-Mentee Day in the Park at Randall's Island on Aug. 2.

The special event featured sports, music, food, fun, camaraderie and more for Mentees and their families.

In addition to participating in the activities for the day, the Mentees were able to spend time with their Mentors to learn



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FFCMP Hosts Mentor-Mentee Day in the Park

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more about serving as one of New York's Bravest.

The program, which is currently gearing up for its fifth round, 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. ■



**Don't Forget to Join the FFCMP
After Your List Number is Called!**

RECRUITMENT CORNER

FDNY Teens Achieve Summer Success



FDNY Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro, back row left, congratulated FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety students for becoming New York State certified EMTs during a special ceremony on Aug. 28.

August was a busy month for the Office of Recruitment and Diversity's Youth Workforce Development Program. On Aug. 21, 12 FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety students completed the EMT Basic Course at Fort Totten and nine students in that group became New York State certified EMTs. The students celebrated their outstanding achievements on Aug. 28 during a special ceremony at the De-

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FDNY Teens Achieve Summer Success

partment's Headquarters. In total, 88 FDNY High School graduates have become state certified EMTs. In addition, 48 FDNY High School students participated in the Summer Leadership Academy at Fort Totten from Aug. 18-22.

During the program, students completed boot camp-style training to improve their physical fitness, as well as their listening and leadership skills.



The Academy, which is held every year, also emphasizes the importance of teamwork, bravery, respect,

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FDNY Teens Achieve Summer Success

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perseverance, discipline and service.

Then, on Aug. 23, the students celebrated their completion of the Academy during a special ceremony at FDNY Headquarters in Brooklyn.

During the ceremony, Assistant Commissioner for Recruitment and Diversity Michele Maglione presented each student with a certificate for completing the rigorous program. In addition, 14 students were honored with special commendations for performing with distinction during the challenging training.

The event also featured student demonstrations, which gave the high schoolers an opportunity to showcase what they learned at the Academy to their families and other special guests in attendance.

The high school, housed in Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, is a small thematic school that educates students from 9th to 12th grade while introducing them to careers as Firefighters, paramedics and EMTs.

And the FDNY student summer success did not stop there.

The FDNY Fire and Emergency Medical Service Explorers also earned nine of 12 medals in the

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FDNY Teens Achieve Summer Success

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Sixth Annual FDNY Exploring Competition at the Fire Academy on Aug. 23. More than 100 Explorers from the New York area participated in this year's games, which included 80 FDNY Explorers.

In addition to the annual CPAT Relay, CPR, Search and Rescue, Midnight Alarm Relay, and Hose Relay challenges, this year's competition featured the EMS Jeopardy game. In total, the talented FDNY Explorers took



home first place honors in five out of six challenges.

The program educates students ages 14 to 20 about the fire and emergency medical services careers, while also enhancing their leadership, life and service skills. As an FDNY Explorer, students participate in weekly meetings, community service projects, field trips to firehouses and EMS stations and other important activities. ■