

BRIAN J. MCDERMOTT

Experienced and driven retired Fire Chief with knowledge in all realms of Public Safety, Administration, Enforcement, Purchasing, Budgeting, Program Management, Grant Writing, and Collaboration. Proven success through fact based decision making and accountability. Thrives on interagency partnerships, community engagement, and creativity in deploying resources. Values diversity and is inclusive. My direct efforts have reduced fire fatalities, increased revenue and bolstered staffing.

50 Chestnut Dr

Wayne, NJ 07470

973-885-3527

mcbig413@optonline.net

<http://linkedin.com/in/brian-mcdermott-07313a40>

Work Experience

The Emerald Isle Group, LLC – President

08/2023 3 to Present, Wayne, NJ

Sole proprietor for consulting on smart growth, management and efficiency. Manage contracts with three companies to find and enact efficiencies within them and grow to meet the needs of customers. Charged with managing 2 large facility expansions.

Firefighter One LLC/FF1 Apparatus LLC – Chief Operating Officer

10/2023 to Present, Sparta, NJ

Chief of operations for two companies. Have all administrative oversight of all sales, service, HR, and growth management.

Elmwood Park Fire Department – Fire Director

03/2024 to Present, Elmwood Park, NJ

Oversees all administrative operations for a staff of 70 and four facilities. Answers directly to the business administrator and the mayor.

City of Paterson Fire Department – Chief of Department

06/1995 to 08/2023, Paterson, NJ

Leads a diverse staff of 470 in the delivery of public safety services relevant to Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Central Communications, and Office of Emergency Management. Develops, promulgates, and manages a budget of \$44 million. Ensures compliance with all laws and standards. Maintains and administers discipline at the highest level. Develops and directs new and innovative programs.

Oversees all code enforcement activities and arson investigations. Collaborates with the Executive and Legislative branches of government on a daily basis. This tenure has resulted in a predictable and responsible budget that was adopted in two fiscal years, without alteration by the governing body. I have ensured NFPA 1710 compliant staff resulting in outstanding response times to our 45,000+ emergency calls for both Fire and EMS. Administratively there have been no grievances from any Union because consensus building is at an all time high. With the acquisition of new apparatus, there are none less than 2 years old in service reducing downtime and maintenance cost. There have been threats of layoffs and due to sound budget practices, we were able to avoid negatively affecting any jobs and in fact, we were able to promote and fill every vacant position.

City of Paterson Fire Department – Fire Official

01/2010 to Present, Paterson, NJ

Oversees all code enforcement which consists of roughly 10,000 inspections annually. Directs and delivers all hydrant inspections within the jurisdiction. Administers 500 fire investigations annually and ensures policies are updated for same. Confers with law-enforcement agencies to conclude fire investigations as it relates to criminal activity. Collects and accounts for \$1.7 million in revenue annually generated from all inspections. Attends courtroom sessions in regard to appeals of the fire code without ever having lost an appeal. As a result of innovative leadership, revenue has hit record levels, all mandated inspections are complete, multiple arrests have been made for arson fires and we have installed thousands of smoke detectors.

Rutgers University- CPM Advisory Board – Executive Board Member

01/2023 to Present, Newark, NJ

CBRNE/Fire Subcommittee – Chairman

01/2015 to 05/2018, State of NJ

Developed and spent down a budget of \$1.5 million annually. Planned, trained, equipped, exercised, and coordinated response of Regional CBRNE HazMat Teams, Decontamination Units, Foam Units, Neptune “big water” units, Breathing Air Trucks and Firefighting. Knowledge of THIRA, Investment Justification, Spending Plans, HSEEP Compliance, and coordination of multiple responders with diverse responsibilities. Facilitated extremely large budgets annually. As a result of fiscal responsibility, the budget passed unanimously annually, we procured millions of dollars worth of equipment and we restructured the regional response to disasters. Of major importance was the successful specification and acquisition of six regional air units for firefighting, HazMat and SCUBA response.

Metro USAR Strike Team – Chairman

06/2009 to 06/2014, Newark, NJ

Directed and developed committee budget of \$1.6 million. Administered planning, training, exercising, equipping, and response of the UASI Metro Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team, a team of over 600 specialized rescue responders. Personally presented the budget to Homeland security for approval and every year it was unanimously approved. Of great importance, the stacked budgets were spent to zero well within deadlines every year. There were dozens of high profile rescues from this organization including a massive collapses of a 10 story building and a 3 deck parking structure in Hackensack, a 3 fatality trench rescue, all of which I commanded, and a train wreck in Hoboken. Had full oversight of all core class training and the annual 4 day live exercise of the entire 600 member team for the entirety of my tenure. Dealt directly with Homeland Security Director and State Police Colonel on collaborative efforts and was the USAR Branch Director during the 2014 Superbowl.

Health Coalition of Passaic County – Executive Board Member

2019 to Present, Passaic County, NJ

Collaborate with County Health professionals to facilitate health and wellness for underserved population within the County. This includes direct input into COVID response, testing and vaccination throughout the County.

Education

Rutgers University – Master of Public Administration

01/2023 to Present

University of Maryland, University College – BS Fire Service Administration

09/2010 to 05/2014

Earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in order to prepare me for the next level.

Rutgers University – Certified Public Manager (CPM)

03/2021 to 12/2021

The New Jersey Certified Public Manager® Program develops public and nonprofit managers, administrators, and supervisors into efficient, effective, and ethical organizational leaders through an intensive 29 week course with Capstone Project.

Organizations

International Association of Fire Chiefs

As a member, I stay current on topics relevant to the Fire Service.

Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association

National Association of the Chiefs of the Country's largest Fire Departments of 350 members or more.

NJ Career Fire Chiefs Association

Member of this organization to collaborate with other NJ Fire Chiefs.

International Association of Arson Investigators

Member of this organization to keep updated on NFPA standards and local training opportunities.

Accomplishments

COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, assumed Citywide lead role with Mayor via OEM and was nationally acclaimed for our preparedness and response. Ensured logistical preparedness of PPE for all City Employees, restructured the entire Fire Department to enhance safety, enacted disinfectant protocol, enhanced level of PPE used, coordinated out-of-state resources, established a City logistics center, brought in testing and managed tests for thousands of residents as well as all 1st responders and City EMS, developed RFP for cost recovery company, managed all OE purchases relating to COVID for the entire City, and reduced instance of COVID transmission. Established vaccination logistics protocol in concert with Health Officer.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/01/health/coronavirus-emt-workers.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>

Emergency COVID Telehealth

Started the first of its kind BLS ambulance based telehealth service in concert with St. Joseph's Hospital during the height of COVID to assess infected patients directly in their homes to reduce ER overload.

Regional EMS Services

Successfully negotiated with several municipalities to expand EMS services outside of Paterson thereby increasing revenue in excess of \$500k.

EMS 3rd Party Billing

Successfully renegotiated the contract for EMS billing for Paterson resulting in a 7% rise in revenue and the contractor bearing the cost of iPads and cell service for electronic patient care reporting.

Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR)

Implemented ePCR for the first time ever in Paterson and removing triplicate forms while inserting iPads. This resulted in instant submission of reports for billing and more efficient on scene information gathering.

Hazardous Materials Response

At no additional cost to the City, in 2018, entered into a Countywide HazMat shared service agreement where we received equipment at no cost. In 2019, converted our 2005 Rescue Truck to HazMat. A project completed in January 2020, just in time to provide mass decon for COVID-19 responders and civilians. HazMat now has an expanded role beyond COVID-19 including being our new foam bank for the interstate Highway and chemical facilities.

Public Fire Education (PFE)

Successfully implemented an aggressive PFE program through award of a competitive grant providing \$230k to purchase a fire dog robot, A/V equipment, and education materials. This resulted in 300+ hours of community interaction, creation of an Annual Job Fair resulting in over 150 jobs for constituents, an autism touch-a-truck event attended by over 1,000 attendees, and over 1,000 applications to become a firefighter. Redesigned a 2007 truck to be friendly to kids and in cooperation with Lowe's remodeled a fire safety education trailer for free. This has contributed to a 30% drop in house fires.

Nationally Acclaimed Instructor

Through my years I have been the lead instructor at the local fire Academy, a guest lecturer at multiple events, and a five year straight hands-on training instructor at FDIC in Indianapolis from 2005-2009.

Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS)

In cooperation with Federal ATF, implemented BATS, a nationally interoperable Arson Investigation RMS that is used for reporting and investigation of fires and explosions by on duty investigators. This program is free and we were one of the first in the nation to sign on. This has resulted in an efficient capturing of information on scene using a smartphone. It also has shared information nationally to track fires and tie incidents with common suspects.

Renovate Firehouses

Applied for two separate grants and was awarded both to renovate firehouses and add a diesel exhaust system for fire trucks. First, renovated a 50 year old bathroom, placed rubber flooring in bays of 3 firehouses, added lockers to get fire gear off the floor, and added diesel exhaust removal systems in two firehouses. Then replaced a dangerous 4 post vehicle lift at the mechanic shop. Currently adding diesel exhaust removal systems in the final 4 stations that need them using another grant. These are major accomplishments to reducing carcinogen intake for our staff. In fact, we even purchased 4 floor Zamboni's that run through all bay floors to deep sanitize further.

PSE&G Direct Install Program

Collaborated with the Purchasing Director and PSE&G to change all lights to LED and install all new furnaces in every firehouse. As a result we are more eco friendly

through energy efficiency and substantially reduced cost.

Form Swift Water/Ice Rescue Team

In 2006 as Rescue Captain, developed new policy for water rescue. Then, in 2010, as Chief of Special Ops, wrote and won a grant to train 24 members to water/Ice Technician and 24 Train-the-Trainer, 48 water suits, 48 ice suits, inflatable swift water boats, ice rescue tools, and PPE. This all proved valuable in 2011 when Hurricane Irene/Lee flooded the City for two weeks. members made multiple rescues and I directed a helicopter operation. Identified a gap after Irene/Lee and specified a high water rescue vehicle. This truck proved useful during Superstorm Sandy. In short, I have deep experience with real life water rescue operations on the tactical and strategic levels.

Mechanic Shop Renovation & Merger

In collaboration with the administration, completely restructured the table of organization of the mechanic shop, renovated and expanded the shop to include two more bays with lifts, a parts store, new rubber & epoxy flooring, quiet air compressor with hard piped air and a new office area. Expanded the new records management system to include fleet and equipment and expanded our roll to include all city vehicles with exception of police and DPW adding roughly 100 vehicles to our roles. Also currently "charged" with replacement of city vehicles with electric vehicles.

First Electric Type 3 Ambulance in USA

Awarded a first of its kind grant award in the USA to electrify the ambulance fleet. Award totaled \$1.2 million that includes charging infrastructure. Chair of Specification Committee.

Projects

Federal Minority Hiring Consent Decree Compliance

Beginning in 2010, managed the 1977 Federal Consent Decree on the Paterson Fire Department mandating a higher percentage of minority hires. Selected committee to oversee 3 recruiting campaigns and was lead when we met and exceeded the mandate thereby acknowledging compliance with and witnessing the removal of the decree. As Chief, I recently hired the most diverse class in Dept. history.

Merger and Command of Police, Fire, and DPW Communications

Successfully merged, through ordinance, all Dispatch operations for the City of Paterson including Police, Fire, and DPW. Accepted management of the budget and all personnel associated with the three divisions. Currently in progress on a \$10 million project for a multi-use Communications/OEM/Community Center that we acquired through a CDBG grant written by me.

Opioid Response Team (ORT)

Founding member of the grant driven ORT in cooperation with the Prosecutors Office, Police and Counseling services in order to take action on curbing the opioid epidemic.

Fleet Electrification

accepted responsibility to electrify the entire City fleet. to date, received 38 vehicles with charging stations at a total cost of \$215k through the use of multiple grants.

Vacant & Abandoned Property Demolition Program

Wrote and awarded a federal housing and urban development grant in the amount of \$731,000 to purchase demolition equipment, train personnel, and demolish vacant and abandoned properties throughout the City of Paterson. Collaborated with multiple divisions, specified all apparatus, purchased same, and successfully trained personnel and administered the new program.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/paterson/sections/economic-development/articles/innovative-effort-by-paterson-fire-department-finally-puts-demolition-equipment-to-work>

Records Management System (RMS)

in 2013 wrote and was awarded a grant for a new RMS. Implemented said program and populated all data. This RMS merged all fleet management, fire code, revenue collection, policies, human resource management, training and property management into one program. Through electronic signature acknowledgement, all new policies are signed for electronically. This removed 90% of paper and has greatly helped prove receipt acknowledgement of rules for accountability purposes.

Apparatus Specification

Chair of Apparatus specification Committee for specification of 13 ambulances, 6 ladder trucks, 19 Pumpers, 30 SUV's, 1 Utility truck, 1 Arson Vehicle, 1 Drone, 2 Field Command Units, a Tractor w/55' Trailer, a Rolloff w/Dumpsters, a 29 ton Excavator, 3 Heavy Rescue Trucks, 2 High Water Vehicles, 2 Air Units, a fire safety trailer and 7 boats. Secured over \$5 million in grants for various apparatus, used cooperative purchasing, bid and State contract purchasing methods. Used lease purchase through line item budget, grant funding and Bond Ordinance to purchase apparatus as well.

Prisoner Reentry Ambassador

Ambassador for the prison Reentry program. Help people get acclimated to post incarceration life or seek drug abuse assistance.

Power Load Stretchers

Through creative writing, convinced our county that CARES funding should be used for multiple new technology items for ambulances. With that, we were able to obtain 14 Stryker automatic stretchers with stretcher lift, two Lucas 3 chest compression devices, 14 Fix mounted UV-C automatic lights in ambulance boxes and EMS blood-borne pathogen gear for every firefighter. These are items that we have never had that will increase safety, reduce injury & associated costs, and are an extreme morale boost for our staff. This was substantially over \$1 million in value.

Active Shooter Bleeding Control Training and Deployment (B-Con)

Successfully trained 371 personnel in application of tourniquets and wound packing for severe trauma victims. Obtained 18 disaster kits containing 64 tourniquets and wound packing supplies at no cost to City. Collaborated with Fire Union to get successful buy-

in. As a result, members saved a man who had both legs amputated by a train. This was captured live on TV.

Operation 7 Save-A-Life

Taking a front seat role with ARC to install thousands of free detectors in the last 10 years.

Roof Repair

Garnered approval of both Executive and Legislative branches to repair and replace all fire station roofs through an approved bond. This will result in at least 30 years free of roof problems and by roofing with reflective material, we will create energy efficiency.

Professional Certifications

Certified NJ State Fire Official

Certified and appointed to enforce the International Fire Code.

Certified NJ State Fire Instructor

Certified to train firefighters via NJ Administrative Code.

Certified IAAI Fire Investigator

Trained in NFPA 921 "Guide for fire and explosion investigations"

Harvard National Preparedness Leadership Initiative

Harvard University; School of Public Health

Training

OSHA Confined Space Train-the-Trainer

Certified to Train members on OSHA 1910.146 and 1910.147

NJSP Trench Rescue Technician

Live Training on trench rescue collapse Operations including rigging, building of reinforcements for any configuration, and patient packaging.

NJSP Collapse Rescue Technician

High level training on structural collapse rescue operations including lifting & moving, cutting & burning, rope & heavy rigging, and breaking & breaching.

NJSP Hazardous Materials Response Operations

Trained to identify, respond to, mitigate and decontaminate after HazMat incidents.

IMS Level 3

Compliant with the National Incident Management System

CPR and Defibrillator

FDNY Rescue Technician

Four week course on all types of technical rescue operations that was delivered at their training facility.

NJSP Boater Safety Certificate

Awards

Firefighter of the Year, 1996

Rescued a mother and son from house fire.

EMT/First Responder of the Year, 1998

Revived a 4 year old girl using CPR.

NJ State Bronze Medal of Valor, 2009

Rescue of 11 people from a House Fire

NJ State Medal of Valor, 2014

Rescued 2 teenagers who had fallen through the ice on the Passaic River

9/11 Ground Zero Responder Award

Recognized for my response directly to Ground Zero on 9/11/01

City of Paterson Mayor's Award, 2020

For above and beyond dedication to the Paterson Fire Department and to the citizens of the city of Paterson for leadership and foresight that helped to safely guide through the unprecedented pandemic of COVID-19.

Public Safety Directors Award 2022

Recognized for leadership and valor during tropical storm Ida.

Straight and Narrow department for persons with disabilities Catholic charities, diocese of Paterson, 2019

For life-saving efforts at straight and narrow rehab center on August 24, 2019.

Paterson Explorer post 1, 2020

Appreciation of consistent and meaningful guidance and support.

Irishman of the year, 2017

The county board of chosen freeholders official proclamation publicly recognizing as Irishman of the year

Multiple Valor Awards

1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2014

Films

A&E Live Rescue

Featured responder every Monday night live on television. Positively represent the profession of firefighting to over 1 million viewers. Negotiated to have all revenue generated, approximately \$200k, directed specifically to renovate athletic fields through a 501-C3 account.

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

nationally released video interview describing the multiple fatality fire at the Quackenbush building in Paterson and current fire service issues.

Interests

Family

I am married to my wife Shannon for 25 years. I have three daughters: Ashley, Anna and Katie. My drive in life is to set a positive example for them.

Passaic County Police & Fire Pipes and Drums

Bagpiper, charter member (1998) and past Pipe Major (leader) of the band. Played 55 funerals for 9/11/01 police and fire line of duty fatalities. Was humbled and honored to play for FDNY Chaplain Father Judge; the 1st documented fatality on 9/11.

Youth Softball Commissioner

Started local fast pitch travel softball league and coached well over 100 athletes over a period of 8 years. Made the program year round and cost effective for parents. Won multiple championships with the teams and all with a policy that everyone gets substantial playing time. This resulted in a positive atmosphere in which the athletes can learn, compete and have fun. Currently volunteer coach for the Paterson Diamond Divas, an urban youth softball organization.