

# CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2009

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**TO: Ms. Cheryl R. Teamer, Exec. Assistant      DEPARTMENT: Administrative**

**FROM: Warren E.. McDaniels, Superintendent      DEPARTMENT: Fire**

**SUBJECT: Mayor's Legacy Project - Fire Department Component.**

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Dear Ms. Teamer:

This is provided in response to your request for a bullet form listing of Fire Department accomplishments, under Mayor Marc H. Morial's leadership. The accomplishments are listed below:

- **The Operation of the Fire Suppression Division- The Fire Suppression Division is the heart of the Fire Department. It is certainly what most people think of when they think Fire Department. We have had numerous successful operations during the past eight years: the combined total of which indicate that our citizens are being provided excellent fire protection.**
- **In fact our citizens recognize this. In a report by Dr. Susan Howell, Director of the U.N.O. Survey Research Center (April, 1996) the New Orleans Fire Department was rated as providing excellent or good service by sixty-five percent of the citizens. This is by far the highest rating received by any local government service in New Orleans.**
- **One major incident which brought national recognition to the New Orleans Fire Department was the emergency management, rescue and first responder service provided during the "Bright Star"/"River walk" incident in December, 1996. The Department took a lead rolling mitigating the disaster.**
- **Public Information/Education - The Fire Department has learned that, while fire suppression is absolutely essential, fire prevention, especially through public education, is extremely efficient and effective. In keeping with this we have a number of programs underway to enhance our citizen's knowledge of how to prevent fires and how to survive a fire, should one start. These are continuing efforts.**
- **Use of the media - A ten part series was run on local television explaining the fire problem and how not fall victim to fire. This is a part of our public education focus.**

- **Learn Not to Burn - A Nationally tested and a proven lifesaving fire safety education program, created by the National Fire Protection Association, has been taught to approximately 255,000 Orleans Parish elementary school students in grades pre-k through third since 1993. Included in the Learn Not to Burn program is our Apparatus Demonstration program, which gives children the opportunity to meet firefighters, see them in their turn out gear, view the Fire Engine and examine the tools and equipment firefighters utilize in the field.**
- **Senior Citizen Fire Safety Education - Seniors face high risks of injuries and fatalities due to fire. Information and education have been provided to seniors' groups through a series of lectures, presentations and films which increase their safety awareness levels. This program has reached approximately 11,450 area seniors.**
- **Fire Museum and Education Center - Opened to the public in April of 1995, the museum located at 1135 Washington Avenue, is in an old fire station that dates back to the 1850's. It exhibits numerous fire artifacts, and contains an education center which now informs and educates more than 5000 visitors annually. The museum also coordinates visits to fire engine houses which have totaled more than 8000 people in the past eight years.**
- **Kid's Fire Safety House - A mobile education center, the safe house is used to teach children about fire dangers in the home and how to exit a burning building. The safe house uses a safe nontoxic smoke to add realism to the exit drills. It has served approximately 16,000 people in the last eight years. The Kid's Fire Safety House was donated by the Rotary Club of Carrollton.**
- **Recruitment of Women and Minorities - Through the mayor's task force and executive order MHM 99-05 the New Orleans Fire Department has actively recruited and hired women and minorities, to date the Department has had 82 women applicants go through the sign up program, resulting in three women who has passed the civil service exam and is being processed and eight women scheduled to take the next exam.**
- **Public Affairs Division - Established on October 4, 1994, the Public Affairs Division combines the talents and expertise of fire suppression personnel with those of a public relations specialist. This division coordinates all public education programs, community outreach, and public information activity.**
- **Night Out Against Crime - Partnering with neighborhood groups in their territories, fire companies throughout the city attend neighborhood Night Out Against Crime Block parties performing apparatus demonstrations, and allowing citizens to get to know the fighters protecting their area**

- **Community Outreach - New Orleans Fire Department has provided lifesaving fire safety information to more than 330,000 citizens and visitors to the City of New Orleans over the past eight years through its various community outreach programs.**
- **The International Association of Fire Chiefs - The City of New Orleans successfully hosted the I-Chiefs conference in 2001, one of the largest fire service conferences in the world with an estimated attendance of over 15,000.**
- **The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Conference - in 1999 the New Orleans Fire Department coordinated this conference playing host to approximately 350 fire chiefs, their family members and sponsors from around the country.**
- **Firefighters Memorial Mass - The Public Affairs Division coordinates this annual mass at the St. Louis Cathedral.**
- **Ninth Ward Free Festival - Coordinates with the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Friends of the New Orleans Fire Department and other sponsors, to put on this free entertainment event in the Lower Ninth Ward.**
- **Seventy major fire emergency response vehicles have been purchased and put in service, during Mayor Morial's Administration. These include pumpers, squirts, ladder trucks, a Quint, squad units, and staff response vehicles.**
- **The Fire Training Division conducted fourteen Fire Recruit classes during Mayor Morial's Administration. Two hundred and seventy three Fire Recruits were trained and placed in service. This included four females. The Division also conducted numerous in service training programs.**

**Page 4 The Fire Prevention Division:**

- **Donated and installed over 4000 battery operated smoke detectors to the handicapped, elderly and economically disadvantaged.**
- **Established a juvenile fire setter's program to help children who have an established problem of playing with fire.**
- **Established a fire safety program in the housing developments composed of code enforcement inspections by the housing counselors and increased public fire education through written media and fire safety fairs.**
- **Development and training for a system to conduct departmental investigations for all new hires and promotional candidates within the Fire Department. This specifically addresses the candidate's arrest record and enforcement of the city's domiciliary policy.**
- **With adoption and implementation of the current Fire Prevention Code, fee increases have yielded a revenue increase from approximately \$52,046 in 1995 to \$148,041.62 in 2001.**
- **Fire House Computer Network: All Fire Stations and facilities are now connected by an ADSL network to City Hall MIS. This allows fire personnel to access fire records, payroll, email etc. electronically.**
- **Tear and run printers at all fire stations. This allows for a written dispatch of all fire incidents. The same information that Fire Alarm broadcast over the radio system is also sent to a printer in each fire station via the same ADSL network being used for fire records. This feature helps us reduce radio traffic by not having to repeat address to responding fire units. Also provides the responding units with a hard copy of the dispatch.**
- **Pager to Computer Aided Dispatch interface: Same as above but to a pager that is being worn by the District and Deputy Chiefs. Pilot program that after evaluation may include Fire Captains Serves the same purpose as above but allows fire personnel to receive information while out of the station house.**
- **Stress reduction center. Physical fitness equipment placed in the communication center for fire and EMS dispatchers to help with stress related problems.**
- **Radio Equipment upgrade: The backbone equipment for the public safety radio system was upgraded to accommodate Y2K.**
- **Fire Records System: The computerization of almost all aspects of the fire service. Includes but not limited to incident reporting, inventory, training, hydrant condition and inspections.**

- **Fire View: An Geographic Information System (GIS) that is used to visually present and analyze database information. Will work with our data systems to display such information as types of fire incidents by date, time location etc.**
- **Organizational Analysis and Renewal - This is an effort to fully integrate the knowledge and experiences of our members to improve our operation. Our personnel are our most valuable resource. We are actively soliciting the input and assistance of all Fire Department employees in developing ways to better serve the public. This is a continuing effort, established under Mayor Morial's Administration.**
- **Negotiation of Collective Bargaining Agreement - Working with the City Administration, we successfully negotiate a new contract between management and labor to guide and to enhance our ability to accomplish our mission. Working together we achieve more for our citizens.**
- **The Fire Administrator, Walter Dupeire, a thirty-five year veteran of City Government and a twenty four year veteran of the Fire Department, received the 1996 Charles E. Dunbar Award for excellence in career service. He was one of twelve in the State to receive this prestigious award. He is an example of the caliber of our employees.**
- **Expansion of the Fire Prevention Division - Fire Prevention is an extremely important aspect of providing fire protection to our City. With the advent an entirely new major industry in our community, gaming, we have an increasing need for fire prevention activities we have established five New Fire Prevention Inspector Positions, under Mayor Morial's Administration.**
- **Cultural Diversity - is a goal of the Fire Department. We have an ongoing effort to increase the number of women and minority firefighters and have worked closely with Civil Service to achieve this. This is a continuing effort.**
- **Improve the Fire Rating of the City. - We under took a comprehensive effort to improve the Insurance Fire Rating of the City. It was at level three. We successfully achieved a level two. This has lowed many fire insurance premiums for our property owners. This was accomplished under Mayor Morial's Administration.**

- **Maintain Standards/Seek Improvements in overall Operation - We anticipate that we will continue to accomplish our mission through a vigilant maintenance of our high standards of operation and constant pursuit of improvement in methods, equipment and training. This is our tradition, and our continuing goal.**
  
- **First Responder - is a major life saving effort which has been initiated by the Fire Department. It uses existing resources and personnel to provide quick response initial emergency medical service to our citizens. This vital service was established and implemented city wide, under Mayor Morial's Administration.**

**Should you have any questions about the above, please contact me.**

**Very truly yours,**

**Warren E. McDaniels  
Superintendent of Fire**

**WEMc/WAD/smh**