



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 3a(a) of An Act To classify the officers and members of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, , effective June 20, 1906 (34 Stat. 314; D.C. Official Code § 5-402(a-1)(1)), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Mr. John Donnelly
North Dakota Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20011
(Ward 4)

for appointment as Chief of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed emergency resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".
Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm, on an emergency basis, the appointment of Mr. John Donnelly as Chief of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Chief of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department John Donnelly Confirmation Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Mr. John Donnelly
North Dakota Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20011
(Ward 4)

as the Chief of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, in accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

JOHN A. DONNELLY, SR.



Key Skills	—Creativity and Innovation	—Developing Others	—Problem Solving
	—Strategic Planning	—Team Building	—Incident Command
	—Vision	—Accountability	—Financial Management
	—Conflict Resolution	—Customer Service	—Politically Savvy

Profile An **organizational leader** with thirty-eight years of progressive responsibility in the fire service, starting as a firefighter, then a paramedic, and continuing at all ranks up to and including Assistant Fire Chief in the Washington, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Executive experience in leading and managing all phases of Fire and EMS Department Operations, including budget formulation, data analysis, human resources, labor relations, fleet operations, community preparedness, fusion center, grant management, and Special Operations. Career experience in wildland firefighting with BLM and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority as Firefighter / Paramedic.

Innovation experience and **visionary** leadership as a member of an executive team establishing the Special Operations and Homeland Security Division, which includes responsibility for Marine Firefighting, Hazardous Materials, and Technical Rescue operations; Emergency Preparedness activities; and managing interagency relationships. Significant response and incident command roles with the Washington DC Fire and EMS Department to 9/11, 4 Alarm Frager's Hardware Fire, Navy Yard Active Shooter, Watergate Collapse, and CSX Hazardous Materials Train Derailment.

Experience in **media relations**, Public Information Officer roles, and community outreach efforts with Citizen Emergency Response Teams, Washington DC Firefighters Burn Foundation, Boy Scouts, Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction Programs, and the Red Cross.

Regional leader, experienced in forming relationships with partners from other disciplines and branches of government to build and strengthen local and regional preparedness. Maintain a leadership role in the District of Columbia's Homeland Security programs; and as leader of the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC), Executive Director of the Securing the Cities Program, and has served as Chair of Regional Fire Chief's Committees for Hazardous Materials and Intelligence.

National Leader, working to advance the nation's fire service as a member of the International Association of Fire Chief's Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee and leadership of the Department's participation in the NIST High Rise Fire Staffing Study. Serve as a member of the Inter-Agency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability – Science and Technology. Serve in leadership roles for national programs as the IAB representative to the First Responder Technology Coordinating Council, and as the first Chairman of the Fire Service Intelligence Enterprise.

Caring Leader, working with all levels of the Department to implement safety programs and grow future leaders. Actively manages employees following the guiding principle that respect and empowerment equate to organizational success. To support empowerment brings members together under the umbrella of departmental values and mission while respecting that each employee's experiences require different leadership interactions to move the Department forward. Holds employees accountable to their peers and community. Uses discipline and as a tool for improvement and when needed to protect Department and employee.

JOHN A. DONNELLY, SR.



Experience **District of Columbia Fire Department 06/1992 – present**
Chief Officer - 4/2008 to present (\$215,670)

Wide and varied assignments across operations and administrative divisions have provided experience in all phases of the emergency response, safety programs, and risk management, including:

- **Assistant Fire Chief (6/2018 – Present)** As a member of the Executive Leadership Team, lead and manage the Professional Development Bureau, comprised of the Training Division, Human Resources Division, Professional Standards Office, Recruiting Office, Compliance Office, and Grants Office.
- **Deputy Fire Chief (9/2011- 6/2018)** Special Projects Officer, Fleet Manager, Executive Officer, Homeland Security and Special Operations Division Commander, Operations Division Commander, Executive Director Securing the Cities Program
- **Battalion Fire Chief (4/2008-9/2011):** Emergency Preparedness (Homeland Security) Officer, Battalion 2, Operations Director Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center,
- Demonstrated leadership and emergency incident management capability as the Acting Fire and EMS Chief during the June 2013 Frager’s Hardware 4 Alarm Fire by developing a strategy to contain and extinguish the fire, protect and inform the community of hazardous environment and determine the cause of the fire. The Department’s response to this event received praised across the city and region.
- Demonstrated ability to solve agency problems, for example:
 - **Problem:** Fire and EMS Apparatus Division are creating news headlines because of excessive overtime and the inability to account for the Department’s apparatus. Overtime costs exceeded \$1,000,000.
 - **Action & Results:** By tying overtime to performance and readiness outcomes, immediately reduced overtime costs to \$20,000 per month. Conducted a fleet audit and accounted for 100% of the Department’s Fleet. Developed and presented an audit report to Council Oversight Committee.
- Demonstrated ability to build and manage large interagency, regional teams focused on both Fire and Emergency Medical problems, for example:
 - **Problem:** 2017 Presidential Inauguration brought hundreds of thousands of celebrants and protesters to the city, taxing Fire, and Emergency Medical Resources.
 - **Action & Results:** Served as Operations Section Chief for the planning and incident management teams. Developed operational plans and concepts that brought together Fire and EMS Agencies from two states and the District of Columbia, Public Health Agencies, the Private Sector, and Military who responded to this historic day without injuries despite widespread civil disturbances.

Progression through ranks in the Operations Division

- Captain, Emergency Preparedness, Special Operations Division (12/2006 – 04/2008)
- Lieutenant, Special Operations Division (11/2003 – 12/2006)
- Sergeant, Truck 3 and Battalion Aide (01/2000 – 11/2003)
- Firefighter, Truck 16 and Rescue Squad 3 (06/1992 – 1/2000)

Additional Work History

- Allentown Road Volunteer Fire Department (Progressed through ranks from Volunteer Firefighter to Volunteer Fire Chief) 1982 - 2008
- Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Fire Fighter/Paramedic) 1987 - 1992

JOHN A. DONNELLY, SR.



Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia – Serve as a professor teaching in the Fire Science Program. Developed curriculums and taught degree required courses.● Serve as an appointed member of the Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee – International Association of Fire Chiefs.● Serve as a selected member of the Inter-Agency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability – Science and Technology Committee.● Selected to represent Fire Service on Director’s Advisory Panel NCTC.● Nationally Recognized Fire and EMS Speaker and Published Author.
Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Obtained grants, collaborated with Red Cross to reduce fire deaths in the senior citizen, and disadvantaged children populations with targeted smoke detector installation and Vision 20/20 community risk reduction program.● Engaged department members to support the city’s Boy Scout Troops to build bridges with youth and improve preparedness in the community.● As the Fire Chief’s representative, engage community groups and neighborhood political organizations to answer concerns about the fire and emergency medical services, to solicit input on programs from community stakeholders and inform the community about existing or new departmental programs.
Recognition & Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Twitter = @FD_Observer● Sample Press Release, SIGMA Project, 3/1/2017 http://www.darpa.mil/news-events/2017-03-01● Sample Live News Update, Fatal Trench Collapse, 2/28/17 https://archive.org/details/WRC_20170228_160000_News4_Midday/start/60/end/120● 2017 Exemplary Service Award in recognition of support to the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and the residents of the District of Columbia.● 2017 Chief’s Award from the United States Park Police for facilitating support between agencies to improve officer safety.● 9/11 Response Pin.● Three Certificates of Appreciation from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Fire Chief’s Committee.● Bronze and Silver Medals (Valor) for the Rescue of an elderly male from a row house fire.● Multiple valor awards and letters of appreciation from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), Defense Applied Research Programs Agency (DARPA), United States Secret Service, Allentown Road Volunteer Fire Department, and others.
Education & Credentials	<p>Master of Arts in Security Studies (Homeland Security and Defense), Naval Postgraduate School, September 2007. 3.92 Grade Point Average, Thesis: <i>Effect of Assessment Processes on Measuring Homeland Security Capability</i></p> <p>Bachelor of Science, Fire Science, University of the District of Columbia, July 2005. 4.0 Grade Point Average</p>
Certifications & Clearances	<p>US Citizen, Top Secret Security Clearance (FBI)</p> <p>Certified NREMT Emergency Medical Technician-Basic</p> <p>Hazardous Materials Technician, IFSAC Fire Officer III, Instructor II</p> <p>National Incident Management System Certifications</p> <p>Contracting Officer, SOAR User and PASS User</p>



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

John Donnelly



Acting Fire Chief John Donnelly started his career with DC Fire and EMS in 1992 having served as the Division Commander of Special Operations, Homeland Security, and Apparatus Division, and as a member of the Command Staff in Special Projects and Executive Officer Roles.

In 2018, Chief Donnelly was promoted to the newly established Professional Development Bureau. Chief Donnelly is responsible for leading the Human Resources Division which includes the Payroll and Compliance Offices, Professional Standards Division, Training Division, and the Grants Office.

Chief Donnelly serves on numerous committees supporting regional and national preparedness, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee, as the Executive Director of the National Capitol Region Securing the City Program, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Fire Chief's Committee.

A Ward 4 resident, Chief Donnelly spends his free time working with the Boy Scouts of Troop 98 in Brookland.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Ronan Gulstone, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: September 8, 2020
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating John Donnelly as the Chief of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Elizabeth Cavendish