

Comments on Civil Service Classification of the Fire Chief

I would like to share my perspective of the position of Fire Chief in the City of Cleveland. A perspective gained from being a native Clevelander for over fifty years, a member of Cleveland fire service for more than thirty years, and the honor of having served as the Fire Chief for the last four years.

The position of Fire Chief for the City of Cleveland involves balancing the many factors that allow the city to be prepared to appropriately mitigate any emergency that is likely to occur. These factors include an expectation that the role of the fire service will expand with the increasing risk of accidental and intentional catastrophe, while being supplied with the diminishing resources that a weakened economy demands. Preparing to meet these challenges involves establishing the correct balance between planning to prevent major emergencies and forming the best plan to mitigate these emergencies, should they occur. There are many components that are appropriate to consider in forming these plans, they all revolve around what best provides for the safety of our citizens. While weighing these critical decisions, these should be the only factors involved in determining the safest course to follow, not who may be offended by the truth, or which way best butters your bread.

I humbly submit to this committee that removing the Fire Chief from the classified service would only serve to add components to the Fire Chief's decision making process that may have little to do with safety.

I believe that my perspective of this matter is unique, and is most certainly offered as what I think is best for the city that I love.


Paul Stubbs,
Chief of Fire