

RESUME of QUALIFICATIONS – CHARLES J. BREEN JR.

Somerville Fire Department

(37 years: May 13, 1985 – Present)

• **Provisional Chief Engineer (5 years: January 15, 2018 – Present)**

Supervise the operation and administration of the Fire Department including personnel and equipment and evaluate the need for and recommend the purchase of apparatus and equipment.

Participate in collective bargaining negotiations and meet with union officials as necessary including handling grievances.

Evaluate department operations, delegate authority and responsibility.

Establish department policies, rules, and procedures, issue General Orders, Special Notices and memos.

Direct firefighting efforts at major fires or emergencies.

Prepare and submit department budgets, approve payroll, and bill payment and work on capital budget requests.

Review incident reports for accuracy and compliance with Department standards.

Attend conferences and trainings to keep abreast of the most recent developments in firefighting methods and equipment.

Manage the performance of personnel including assisting with hiring, promoting and discipline.

Cooperate with other departments and collaborate to achieve compliance with city policies and goals such as Vision Zero.

Attend meetings and events during and outside normal work hours.

Establish effective working relationships across all city Departments as well as area Fire Chief's and promote positive public relations.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Successfully graduated from the 2019 Chief Officer Program conducted by the Department of Fire Services and the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management
- Through pre-planning and incredible cooperation with other city Departments successfully navigated the Fire Department through four major bridge closures resulting from the GLX project. This involved modifying numerous response plans, placing additional staffing and apparatus in service including the construction of a temporary fire station on Washington Street.
- Worked to obtain approval for a second set of firefighting gear for all members of the Department. This second set of gear was critical to cancer prevention efforts. A successful grant application also allowed a second set of gloves to be issued to all members.
- Through incredible assistance from numerous members of the Fire Department and from city staff across all Departments, successfully navigated the Fire Department through the Covid Pandemic. This involved implementing numerous policies, obtaining crucial medical supplies and equipment, and keeping abreast of a steady stream of often changing information.

- Worked with city staff and architects on the planning and design of the new Assembly Square fire station.
- Worked with the Fire Department Apparatus Superintendent on the design of Engine 3. This pumper, placed in service in 2021 features a shorter wheelbase and length allowing it to be more maneuverable on Somerville's often tight, urban streets. In addition, two new command vehicles were purchased and five new electric vehicles for Fire Prevention Inspectors.
- Successfully sought a grant for the purchase of equipment and training to implement a bicycle team.
- Participated on the management team for two collective bargaining agreements, one of which involved a JLMC arbitration decision.
- Attended the 2022 FDIC Conference in Indianapolis attending several training classes and viewing new equipment and apparatus. Also have attended the annual FCAM (Fire Chief's Assoc. Of MA) Professional Development Conference.
- Approved and oversaw the purchase of the following safety equipment: water rescue throw bags, an additional 3rd rail tester, catenary testers, accountability boards for both command vehicles, pet oxygen masks, new forcible entry tools (W tool), an additional Stryker chair, lockout kits for securing electrical power, salvage covers and water vacuums.
- Active role in the installation of IPADS on all fire apparatus. These IPADS provide responding firefighters with a street map, hydrant locations and other building information.

• Chief of Operations

(3 years: 2015 – 2018)

Fill in as the Acting Fire Chief in his absence.

Respond to serious fires, major emergencies and assume an appropriate role within the Incident Command System.

Attend and participate in professional meetings, conferences, and workshops.

Use computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments.

Manage administrative functions within the department including vacation and work schedules.

Assist the Fire Chief in planning and directing the work of the department including budget priorities.

Attend departmental and officer's meetings.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Active role in the implementation of an assigned Safety Chief on all multiple alarm fires with an equipped Safety vehicle. Also in the creation of an SOG dedicated to the position and responsibilities of the Safety Chief
- Participated in Operation SCORE (Statewide Collapse Operations Response Exercise)
- Assisted with the issuance of a second Nomex hood to all members of the department and with the implementation of their required use
- Participated in the installation of smoke and CO detectors in the homes of Somerville senior citizens through a Senior SAFE grant
- Worked on the successful procurement and issuance of AC Hotsticks for all apparatus to increase the safety of firefighters operating near potentially live electrical equipment or wires
- Successfully obtained a second John Deere gator through an EMPG grant bolstering the departments capability of handling incidents during Somerville's numerous street festivals and events

- Successfully worked on obtaining new stand pipe firefighting equipment through an AFG grant for use in Somerville's new and increasing high rise buildings
- Successfully worked on obtaining new SCBA bottles through an AFG grant to replace aging units for fire suppression companies
- Worked with partners from the School and Police Departments on the successful implementation of Lockdown drills in all public schools

• Deputy Chief – Training Division

(3 years: 2012 – 2015)

Supervise the administration and presentation of training related to fire suppression, emergency medical service, hazardous materials, fire prevention, specialized rescue operations, and other related topics.

Administer the Training Division budget on an ongoing basis including the managing of budget expenditures and purchases related to Training.

Manage shift training related to Training Division activities and initiatives.

Evaluate and coordinate all training requests and scheduling for Department personnel to attend out-of-department training courses, seminars and conferences.

Maintain training records and files on all Department personnel.

Assist in the development, administration, and implementation of Departmental goals, policies, rules, regulations and procedures.

Attend fire academy classes, conferences and other meetings to keep abreast of current trends in the field.

Report to working incidents, if available, to observe operations and evaluate the effectiveness of training programs in actual operation and to identify training needs.

Represent the Department at professional meetings as required.

Assume the role of Fire Chief and direct departmental activities upon any absence of both the Chief and Chief of Operations.

Serve as Department representative and function in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) during EOC activations and large scale events or emergencies.

Assist in the specification and design of new apparatus and equipment.

Conduct quality control of all incident reports ensuring that the correct data is being captured.

Write and disseminate news releases to local media.

Oversee and schedule testing of the city's 1581 fire hydrants.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Active role in the implementation of electronic incident data reporting and continue to actively participate in quality control of incident reports
- More than tripled training activity in calendar year 2012 over the previous year
- Assisted in the revision and creation of department SOG's
- Traveled to Pierce Manufacturing in Wisconsin with the Chief and other members of the department to participate in the design and specification of two new pumpers and an aerial ladder

- Increased the continuing education of Chief Officers including the training of ten (10) Chief Officers as Incident Safety Officers
- Mandated the use of email to improve internal communications relating to training issues
- Promoted the use of on-line training courses
- Instituted the issuance of Training Bulletins
- Successfully guided 101 EMT's through what was seen by many as a difficult and confusing new recertification process
- Managed the successful training of 120 members of the department as HazMat Operational Level Responders through the use of creative scheduling
- Continued the increase of Technical Rescue training for department members
- Initiated the use of vacant buildings scheduled for demolition for training purposes. This allowed firefighters to physically practice techniques and sharpen skills.
- Improved the learning environment of the Training Room with the purchase of a 60" flat screen television, ceiling mounted projector and replacement of chairs
- Created a library of resource materials to be used by the Training Officer and other members of the department

- **Fire Investigator (FIU)**

(7 years: 2010 – present)

Investigate fires to determine origin and cause.

Write investigative reports, take photographs and preserve evidence.

Conduct witness interviews.

Testify as an expert witness in the prosecution of person(s) being tried for crimes related to fire arson.

Maintain close liaison with Somerville Police and MA State Police assigned to the State Fire Marshall's office.

- **Captain – Engine 7 (Highland Ave Station)**

(9 years: 2002-2011)

Supervised the care and maintenance of a fire station, apparatus, equipment, and grounds.

Directed the activities of firefighting personnel during an assigned shift.

Assigned, directed, and supervised firefighting, medical emergencies, and related life and property protection; directed the route to be taken to emergency calls; implemented and/or integrated into an incident management system; made decisions regarding firefighting methods to be used; deployed and managed personnel; ensured the safe operation of fire equipment and apparatus.

Assumed the role of District Fire Chief when assigned to cover his absence.

Prepared and reviewed a variety of records and reports; prepared paper work for emergency response and leave requests; delegated special assignments to company personnel. Prepared and maintained a wide variety of correspondence, records, files and reports related to the activities of the assigned company.

- **Captain – Fire Prevention Bureau**

(6 years: 1995 – 2001)

Supervised the activities of personnel assigned.

Reviewed and approved building construction plans for adequate and appropriate fire and life safety systems and equipment.

Inspected buildings and installations during and/or after construction to ensure compliance with applicable codes.

Witnessed various tests required for sophisticated fire protection equipment and verifying proper operation and compliance with applicable codes and standards.

Conducted fire prevention inspections of businesses, schools, day care facilities, hospital facilities, nursing homes and other occupancies as assigned.

Advised developers, contractors, architects, engineers, property owners, the public and other City personnel in matters related to fire prevention, code interpretation and enforcement, and the use, handling and storage of hazardous materials.

Discussed violations with owners and issued written notices, warnings and/or citations as required.

Conducted follow-up inspections to ensure violations were corrected.

Prepared cases for litigation when voluntary compliance could not be obtained.

Presented fire prevention programs and demonstrations.

Completed reports, performed filing, and maintained case folders and records of inspections.

Researched and reviewed fire legislation, codes, and ordinances.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Established and maintained effective working relationships with members of Inspectional Services, Board of Health and the Planning and Zoning Boards.
- Assisted in the implementation of a computerized record keeping system for Fire Prevention reports
- Completed a thorough reorganization of the filing system in use by the Bureau establishing a file for each address similar to one in use by ISD.

• Lieutenant

(5 years: 1991 - 1995)

Served five years as a Lieutenant first on Engine 4 (Lowell Street Station) then on Engine 2 (Headquarters).

• Firefighter

(6 years: 1985 – 1991)

Served six years as a firefighter assigned to Engine 4 (Lowell Street Station).

• Professional Development

Emergency Medical Technician

Mass Decontamination

Fire Instructor I & II

Incident Command for Structural Collapse

Fire Inspector I

Fire Protection Systems for Emergency Operations

Advanced Fire Investigator

National Traffic Incident Management

Trench Rescue Technician

NFIRS Self-Study Program

Confined Space Rescue Technician

MFIRS

Emergency Vehicle Driver

Statewide Fire Mobilization for Task Force Leader

Incident Safety Officer (NFA & MFA)

NIMS / ICS

EOC Management & Operations

WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness

Basic Public Information Officer

Public Information Officer Awareness

- **Education**

University of Massachusetts/ Boston – B.A. Degree Political Science

Bunker Hill Community College – Associates Degree Fire Science (not completed)

- **Department Recognition**

Commendation for actions off duty at 2nd Alarm fire at 85 Bromfield Road on August 28, 2013.

Commendation for actions at Multiple Alarm fire in Everett on April 7, 1991.

- **Community Recognition**

Letter of Recognition from CASPAR re: 50 Walnut Street / 3 Summit Avenue project. (August, 2001)

Letter of Recognition from OHCD re: VNA Project at 259 Lowell Street. (March, 2000)

- **Professional Affiliations**

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors (MIFDI) (no longer active)

Metro Fire /Arson Investigators Association

Metrofire Chiefs

FCAM (Fire Chief's Assoc. of MA)

IAFC (International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs)

NFPA