

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station #2 Headquarters

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TO PREVENT AND COMBAT FIRES, PROVIDE PRE-HOSPITAL CARE AND COMFORTING THOSE IN NEED WHILE SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS.

January 6th 2023

After thinking, praying, careful consideration, and thoughtful discussions with family, mentors, medical staff, legal experts, and Ohio Police and Fire, I am writing to inform you of my retirement, effective January 10th, 2023. This comes much sooner than I ever anticipated. I am grieving the end of a career and livelihood to which I literally gave my heart.

My dad was a firefighter, and I spent many days with him at the station. Unbeknownst, I was exposed to what would become my passion. To say my first influencers were from the firehouse I grew up going to would be an understatement. One of my earliest memories is sleeping overnight at the firehouse the night before Thanksgiving when I was very young. My parents were preparing the turkey when the oven stopped working. So, my dad loaded me up, and off to the station we went. The sights, smells, and noises of radio chatter at the firehouse gave me my career path at an early age. From that night on, I knew what I wanted to do when I grew up. I wanted to be a Firefighter.

The Firefighters molded and shaped my future. They taught me leadership skills and instilled passion that gave me the basis for my career. As a result, my influence has changed personally and professionally over the years. Growing up as the oldest of four kids, I was the first to become a volunteer firefighter. I then became a career firefighter and paramedic. During this time, I encouraged and asserted positive influence on my siblings to follow the same career path that chose me. As a result, my brothers are both career firefighters, and my sister is a volunteer firefighter. Although this may not seem like an accomplishment to many, it is astonishing to me.

As I look back on my time, it is appropriate to note the fantastic ride this career has been for me. I have worked for many departments, including Villages, Counties, Townships, and Cities. In my career, I climbed the ranks, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, and then Chief. Being Chief is one of the most significant accomplishments a Firefighter has, and I happily served as Chief of three separate departments. I had many mentors along the way. In addition, I was blessed to make friendships that will continue for the rest of my life. I have been privileged to have been a member of one of the noblest professions. I have nothing but respect and pride in the brothers and sisters I have served with and now leave behind as I start this new journey.

In closing, being a Firefighter has been an honor and pleasure. I will always miss climbing on the truck and going out the door. I wish fair winds and clear skies to everyone still on the job and pray for your safety.

Sincerely



Matthew Carey-Chief (Retired)