

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: APPT-13-25

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety

Date: September 18, 2025

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable 5-0 (In favor Council Members Blegay, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson)

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee met on September 18, 2025, to consider the appointment of Acting Fire Chief Thelmetria Michaelides as Fire Chief.

Staff provided brief comments on Acting Fire Chief Thelmetria Michaelides' nomination as Fire Chief, noting that Ms. Danielle Hunter, Appointments Liaison, Office of the County Executive, would provide additional educational and professional background information.

Ms. Danielle Hunter introduced Acting Fire Chief Thelmetria A. Michaelides highlighting her 26 years of experience in fire service, emergency response, public safety, and community engagement. She stated that Acting Fire Chief Michaelides holds a bachelor's degree in fire science and has completed extensive training and certifications.

Deputy B.J. Harris described Acting Fire Chief Michaelides as a dedicated, humble, and fair leader who prioritizes community safety and firefighter well-being. He said she is respected as both a chief and a mentor, and the county is fortunate to have her leadership.

Acting Fire Chief Michaelides thanked the Council and County Executive for the opportunity to lead the Fire/EMS Department. She highlighted her focus on changing the department's culture to prioritize its members. In just 80 days, she has overseen multiple recruit classes, promotions, and efforts to reopen or restaff closed firehouses. She emphasized the importance of overhiring to keep fire stations properly staffed.

Acting Fire Chief Michaelides shared that the Department is moving forward with national accreditation, a milestone that has been stalled for a decade, and is only achieved by a few agencies in Maryland. She has also resolved long-standing pay issues, increased communication

with staff and volunteers, and launched new initiatives such as a wellness app for firefighters, community “coffee chats” to build trust, and inspections to ensure stations are ready and equipped. Looking ahead, she announced plans for Camp Trailblazer, a program to inspire young girls to consider careers in fire service.

Chair Blegay made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Oriadha, to move favorably on the appointment of Acting Fire Chief Thelmetria Michaelides as Fire Chief.

The committee members strongly endorsed Acting Chief Michaelides, applauding her track record of accessibility, community focus, and leadership, and expressed excitement about her future impact.

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted favorably 5-0 on Acting Fire Chief Thelmetria Michaelides as Fire Chief.