


Memorandum



Date: August 1, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Mayoral Appointment – Fire Chief, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 2.02(C) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby appoint Raied “Ray” Jadallah to the position of Fire Chief for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR), effective immediately.

Chief Jadallah is a 26-year fire service veteran and has had a distinguished career with MDFR for the last 22 years. Most recently, as the Deputy Fire Chief of Emergency Operations, Chief Jadallah oversaw 2,100 MDFR employees who provide vital services such as fire suppression, medical rescue services, and emergency services. He has also overseen the Office of Emergency Management and has been tasked as the Department’s Incident Commander for COVID-19 since March 2020, leading the County’s coordinated COVID response within MDFR. In 2021, he oversaw one of the most significant complex incidents in Miami-Dade’s history – the Champlain Towers South building collapse in Surfside.

Chief Jadallah holds a bachelor’s degree in fire and emergency services management from St. Thomas University. His resume is attached for your reference. I have the utmost confidence in Chief Jadallah’s leadership and know he will continue to provide essential fire rescue and emergency response services to our millions of residents and visitors. Chief Alan Cominsky will take on a critical new role as Miami-Dade County’s Chief Fire Marshal helping lead building safety efforts Countywide.

Please join me in congratulating Chief Jadallah on his appointment and in congratulating Chief Cominsky on his new role as Chief Fire Marshal.

Attachment

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Courts
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Department Directors
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

Profile

As a 26-year veteran in the fire service, 22 of those years have been served with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). I have dedicated myself to being a results-oriented team builder with hands-on expertise in incident management, with strong leadership, management, and communication skills resulting in a positive track record based on accomplishments and proven ability to motivate personnel. I am highly motivated with an ability to think outside the box. I have exceptional communication skills, which have provided opportunities within MDFR as well as opportunities outside of MDFR. I have had the distinct honor to serve in the fire service in the promotional ranks of Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Fire Chief, and Deputy Fire Chief.

Professional Experience

Fire Chief (08-01-2022)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL.

- Provide overall supervision and leadership to approximately 2800 employees both sworn and professional staff.
- Work closely with County leaders to develop public safety goals and objectives.
- Cultivate close working relationships with municipalities and other government agencies.

Deputy Fire Chief (11-08-2021 to 07-31-2022)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL.

- Assist with coordination, management, and implementation of departmental goals, objectives, and priorities for all Department services.
- Responsible for the management of firefighting and emergency medical rescue activities, including directing subordinate levels of executives and managers.
- Manage and coordinate the direct oversight of the offices of the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations and the Assistant Director of Emergency Management.

Assistant Fire Chief (2020 to 2021)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL

- Direct and coordinate the operational and management responsibilities of the department for the administration, coordination, and planning in areas of fire suppression, emergency medical services, airport fire protection, and technical services.
- Review, implement and evaluate the operational and administrative procedures of all MDFR activities to ensure consistent application Department-wide.

Adjunct Instructor (2018 to 2020)

Florida International University (FIU); Miami, FL.

- Co-developer and instructor for FIU's Incident Command System Simulator Program curriculum incorporating design factors and adult learning principles for an experienced/advanced audience

Chief Fire Officer (2010 to 2020)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL.

- Develop and implement strategies and tactics while utilizing the Incident Command System for accountability and safe mitigation of all response incidents in a large complex district.

- Plan, organize, direct and control work locations and training of 200 employees assigned to a given shift in a district. Complete performance evaluations for direct subordinates to monitor progress and identify areas of improvement while providing mentoring, coaching, and training as needed.

Fire Captain (2007 to 2010)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL.

- Command and development of companies assigned to a station on a given shift. Conduct cross-shift logistical and administrative responsibilities for assigned station resources and routine work assignments such as station maintenance, hydrant inspections and maintenance, pre-incident planning, and community demos.

Fire Lieutenant (2004 to 2007)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL.

- Responsibilities included direct supervision of firefighters and resources assigned to a company on a given shift. Safe mitigation of incident responses through the initial establishment of command and supervision of company personnel performing task-level work.

Firefighter (2000 to 2004)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; Miami, FL.

- Responsible for the protection of life, property, and the environment through the actions taken at incident responses. Additional duties included performing routine maintenance of apparatus, equipment, and station. Responsible for driving and operating several emergency apparatuses.

Firefighter (1996 to 2000)

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Department; West Palm Beach, FL.

- Responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, and the environment through the actions taken at incident responses. Additional duties included performing routine maintenance of apparatus, equipment, and station.

Awards and Recognition

Honored and privileged to have received the following:

- Six (6) MDFR meritorious commendations/ribbons for various incidents.
- 2015 Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners' Proclamation as Incident Commander.
- 2022 Community Service Award by the Jewish Community Services of South Florida.
- 2022 Community Service Award by the Coalition of South Florida Muslim Organization.
- 2022 National Homeland Security Association Colonel Robert E. Williams Leadership Award.

Major Incidents and Events

- **Surfside Champlain Tower South Collapse – June 2021**
As the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, I assumed oversight of all operations in the initial hours of the tragic collapse as part of MDFR's Incident Management Team (IMT). During this mission, I transitioned to become the Agency Representative for the families of the missing where my role was to provide information to the families twice a day and keep them updated.
- **Super Bowl LIV – February 2020**
As the Operations Section Chief, I was responsible for the oversight of all response units and personnel for the event that brought almost 70K spectators to the Hard Rock Stadium. This task involved an 18-month preparation of plan involving the coordination with various stakeholders and committees regarding hundreds of sanctioned and unsanctioned events over seven days of Super Bowl activities in Miami-Dade County.
- **COVID-19 – March 2020**
Assigned as the Incident Commander, my responsibilities entailed from the selection of a team to the coordination and implementation of a response plan to be used by MDFR, various County departments and State agencies.
- **FIU Bridge Collapse – March 2018**
As the Deputy Incident Commander, on March 15, 2018, when the Florida International University pedestrian bridge suddenly collapsed, I was responsible for coordinating the strategy and tactics necessary to mitigate the incident.
- **Sunny Isles Building Explosion – October 2015**
After the 34th-floor boiler room explosion, I was assigned as the Technical Rescue Chief responsible for all operations dealing directly with the extrication of victims trapped.
- **Shuckers Restaurant Deck Collapse – June 2013**
As the Planning Section Chief, my duties entailed organizing briefings, providing and updating incident objectives and anticipation of operational needs.
- **Doral Parking Garage Collapse – October 2012**
Activated as a Search Team Medical Specialist responsible for performing the medical function of the operation.
- **Hurricane Activations 2002 – 2018**
As an active member of Florida Task Force 1 Search and Rescue Team, I was deployed to various incidents across the United States, such as, to Hurricanes Katrina, Michael and many others.

Achievements

- Co-developer of FIU's Incident Command System Simulator Program curriculum incorporating design factors and adult learning principles for an experienced/advanced audience. Portions of this curriculum have been incorporated into MDFR's officer development program for MDFR company officers and Battalion Chiefs since 2016.
- Assigned to several committees over 22 years at MDFR, including the SOP committee, MCU/CAD committee, Air Pack committee, Emergency Vehicle Design committee chairperson, and Chief Fire Officer development program instructor.
- Keynote and guest speaker at several large conferences, including the Department of Homeland Security Association and the Miami-Dade County Health Coalition.
- Program manager and advisor for the MDFR Junior Cadet Program from 2000-2007.

Education, Training, and Affiliations

Master of Public Administration (2021- Present)

Barry University, Miami, FL.

- Coursework in administrative and leadership theories and practices to determine effectiveness in the workplace.
- Coursework in administrative procedures and the outcomes of public administration rulemaking while evaluating public theories and practices for substantive and equitable change.

Bachelor of Science- Fire and Emergency Services Management (2018)

Summa Cum Laude

St. Thomas University, Miami, FL.

- Coursework in public policy and integration, personnel management, operations and training, emergency medical services, and fire prevention divisions in a fire and rescue department.
- Coursework in disaster and risk planning, community risk assessment, budgeting, labor relation, personnel development, and fiscal management.

Associate of Science Degree- Emergency Medical Services (2010)

American Medical Academy; Miami, FL.

- Coursework includes general education, emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical system management, supervision, human anatomy, physiology, growth, and development.

Licenses

- State of Florida Firefighter
- State of Florida Paramedic

Certifications and Courses

- Various state certifications
- Various and extensive FEMA ICS certifications

Affiliations

- International Association of Firefighters
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Florida Fire Chiefs' Association