



City of South Fulton Government

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheena Screen

Communications Specialist

470-809-7748 ● 404-979-4561 (cell)

Sheena.Screen@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

<https://twitter.com/COSFGA>

South Fulton Targets Cancer with Physicals, Counseling for Firefighters

(City of South Fulton, GA – February 12, 2020) – Officials in the City of South Fulton want to make sure firefighters are healthy in body and mind before they respond to a massive fire or an urgent service call.

The City of South Fulton City Council approved a bid Tuesday with Marietta-based healthcare company, SiteMed, to provide yearly medical exams and one-on-one counseling to fire rescue employees.

The increasing number of cancer-related deaths and suicides nationwide prompted the council to make sure firefighters receive appropriate health and wellness care. According to International Association of Fire fighters (IAFF), 120 firefighter cancer deaths were reported in 2018. The Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance reports 82 firefighters and 21 EMTs and paramedics died by suicide in 2018.

“The addition of the annual physicals is essential in protecting and saving the lives of our firefighters,” said Freddie D. Broome, chief of the South Fulton Fire Rescue Department. “Medical evaluations can provide early detection of heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other conditions.

“Early detection and treatment can prevent line-of-duty deaths, injuries and disabilities by making sure our personnel are healthy and physically fit to perform their duties,” Broome said.

In January, the council members approved the purchase of more than \$1 million in protective gear for the city’s fire personnel. The department is purchasing new self-contained breathing apparatus and personal protective equipment including jackets, coats, pants, helmets, boots, hoods and gloves.

Broome recently implemented a cancer reduction program after learning research revealed a link between fighting fires and an increased rate of cancer.

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