



NEWS RELEASE

City of South Fulton Government

Department of Communications and External Affairs

Media Contact:

Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

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South Fulton Ensures Emergency Preparedness with New Emergency Management Division

(City of South Fulton, GA – Aug. 16, 2021) – There’s more to fire service than fighting flames and providing medical care.

Many fire rescue departments now offer emergency management services, ensuring personnel and residents are ready for anything from bad weather and chemical spills to industrial accidents and natural disasters. Officials with South Fulton Fire Rescue today unveiled plans for a new emergency management division with former Deputy Fire Chief Sterling Jones as its leader.

“By creating a separate EMA division, we are better preparing ourselves to respond to storm damage, acts of terrorism, hazardous material incidents and other large-scale emergencies,” said Fire Chief Chad Jones. “In the end, that means residents and businesses are safer and property loss is minimized.”

As leader of the new division, Sterling Jones will be responsible for developing disaster response plans – including debris removal – and a hazard mitigation strategy. He also will work closely with officials from the state and neighboring cities to develop and manage mutual aid agreements.

“It is vitally important that cities have emergency management programs to support the development and maintenance of critical emergency operations such as the emergency operations plan, training exercises and collaborative relationships,” Sterling Jones said. “I’m excited to lead the effort to make this vision a reality for the City of South Fulton.”

After leading South Fulton Fire Rescue as interim chief between 2020 and 2021, Sterling Jones assumed his most-recent position as deputy fire chief over community risk reduction. He served as fire chief for Riverdale Fire Services in Riverdale, Ga. From 2017 to 2020.

From 2012 to 2017, Jones was a deputy fire chief in Augusta, Ga., first managing operations and then leading technical and fire marshal services. His other fire leadership positions include Interim 911 director in Augusta, fire inspector with DynCorp; battalion chief with Atlanta Fire rescue and reserve fire chief with the U.S. Air Force Reserve and sergeant with the U.S. Air Force.

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Jones earned an associate's degree in fire science from the Community College of the Air Force, a bachelor's degree in fire and safety engineering technology from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.

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About the City of South Fulton

Home to some 120,000 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's fifth-largest city. It covers more than 85 square miles and features both urban and rural landscapes with the most undeveloped land on metro Atlanta's southern side. Incorporated on May 1, 2017, South Fulton is among Georgia's youngest and fastest-growing cities – on the rise and recognized as the place you want to be. Learn more, download our smartphone app and connect with us on social media at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.