

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Honoring James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe for his service as Cumberland County Fire Commissioner

Whereas, the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association recognizes the extraordinary contributions that James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe has made to the Cumberland County Fire, Rescue and EMS services as Cumberland County Commissioner and as Fire Commissioner; and

Whereas, James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe was born and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a community he continues to call home alongside his wife Melanie, with whom he has raised three children: Kaitlin, Emily, and Jonathan; and

Whereas, James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe commenced his distinguished public service career upon graduating from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1983; and

Whereas, James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe dutifully served his country as a member of the United States Army, achieving the honorable rank of Captain, demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication to the principles of duty, honor, and country; and

Whereas, James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe, a dedicated public servant, returned to his hometown following an active tour of military service and immediately devoted himself to uplifting his community through extensive volunteer work and steadfast leadership; and

Whereas, James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe's commitment to public service is exemplified through his appointments to numerous city, county, and statewide boards, and his tenure as a member of the Fayetteville City Council from 2001 to 2005, followed by his election to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners in 2008, where he has been continuously re-elected, serving the community diligently; and

Whereas, during his tenure on the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Keefe served as Chairman in 2013 and was appointed Fire Commissioner in 2014, providing visionary leadership that included the development of a performance-based fire protection service contract, enhancing financial sustainability for volunteer fire departments, and championing projects such as the state of the art 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point and Emergency Operation Center; and

Whereas, Fire Commissioner Keefe collaborated with Fayetteville Technical Community College to establish one of the largest Fire, Rescue and Emergency Training Centers, which boasts the nation's largest indoor swift water training center, showcasing his commitment to advancing emergency services and training; and

Whereas, his endeavors ensured significant contributions from the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan, enhancing the capabilities and resources of the Cumberland County Fire Service; and

Whereas, James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe's ongoing service on numerous local boards and his family's legacy of national, state, and community service, reflect his deep-rooted dedication to the better of society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, **Freddy L. Johnson Sr. President of the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association** in recognition of his 40 plus years of distinguished public service, hereby honors ***Fire Commissioner James Kevin "Jimmy" Keefe*** by bestowing upon him the esteemed title of

"Honorary Fire Chief"

In Witness Whereof this 16th day of December 2024




FREDDY L. JOHNSON SR. CFO
Fire Chief / President