

City of Memphis



DR. W. W. HERENTON
MAYOR

TENNESSEE

July 1, 2008

The Honorable Shea Flinn
Chairman, Personnel Committee
City Hall Room #514

Dear Chairman Flinn:

Subject to Council approval, it is my recommendation that:

Alvin D. Benson

be appointed Director of the Fire Services Division for the City of Memphis,
Tennessee, effective July 15, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. W. Herenton", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Willie W. Herenton

c: Council Members

ALVIN D. BENSON
2815 EAGLE BRIER COVE
CORDOVA, TN 38016
(901) 383-9845 (Home)
(901) 320-5446 (Office)

CURRICULUM VITAE

EMPLOYMENT:

2004 – Present

Deputy Director – Memphis (TN) Fire Department
Second highest ranking uniformed member of the Division of Fire Services; Oversee day-to-day aspects of the Division of Fire Services for the 1,892 person fire department, operating out of 56 fire stations; 57 engines, 27 ladder companies, 3 Rescue companies, 33 ambulances, Airport operations, and Federal Urban Search and Rescue team.

Responsible, through study, consultation and agreement with Director for developing recommendations for the protection of life and property in the City. Administrative duties include planning, directing, and controlling departmental activities including recruitment of personnel, purchase of equipment, control of expenditures, preparation of budget estimates, and the assignment of personnel and equipment. Consults with the City Officials and key stakeholders on problems of policy and planning, but works independently in supervising technical operations.

2007 – Present

Fire Protection and Code Consultant/Expert Witness –
Perform incident investigations, conduct technical evaluations, and provide expert witness support to assist the legal profession in case development or defense outside of Shelby County. Also perform technical code and standard reviews and other services to assist clients in addressing regulatory compliance issues.

Perform fire hazard analyses and develop fire protection strategies for protecting various occupancies and facilities outside of Shelby County. Also evaluate the performance of existing fire protection systems to verify that they are suitable for the hazards they protect.

2002 – 2004

Deputy Chief – Fire Marshal – Memphis (TN) Fire Department
Oversee, manage, and direct a 50 member staff and Fire Prevention programs to promote public safety through implementation and enforcement of fire and life safety codes and standards.

Oversee, manage, and direct the review and inspection of complex and technical construction plans and specifications for compliance with applicable laws, codes, regulations, standards, and contract documents.

Oversee, manage, and direct fire investigations and the prosecution of arson cases; acts as an expert witness; gives testimony and /or recommendations in court cases and/or hearings.

Provide consultation and information to architects, builders, engineers, attorneys and fire service personnel regarding codes, laws, rules, regulations and department policy relating to buildings, fire protection systems and life safety; gives testimony and/or recommendations in court cases and/or hearings.

Oversee, manage, and direct public educational activities in fire and life safety in partnership with the Fire Museum of Memphis.

1998 – 2002

Fire Prevention Supervisor – Memphis (TN) Fire Department
Responsible for the supervision and direction of complex and technical construction plans and specifications for compliance with applicable laws, codes, regulations, standards, and contract documents

Supervise on-site inspections and tests for compliance with applicable laws, codes, regulations, standards, and contract documents

Provide consultation and information to architects, builders, engineers, attorneys and fire service personnel regarding codes, laws, rules, regulations and department policy relating to buildings, fire protection systems and life safety; gives testimony and/or recommendations in court cases and/or hearings.

2000 – 2001

Fire Prevention Supervisor – Fire Museum of Memphis – Memphis (TN) Fire Department

Oversee the collection, preservation, history and cultural heritage of the Memphis Fire Department and provide direction for fire prevention and safety education to the public, especially children

Responsible for troubleshooting, maintenance and upkeep of museum displays and interactive exhibits

1994 – 1998

Fire Inspector – Memphis (TN) Fire Department
Responsible for inspecting buildings as required by applicable codes, laws, rules, regulations and departmental policy

Reviews all aspects of building construction plans for compliance with applicable codes, laws, rules, regulations and departmental policy; meet with officials as required to clarify specific aspects of the construction document review and approval process; acts as an expert witness;

1987 - 1994

Firefighter - Memphis (TN) Fire Department
Respond to alarms, drives and operates equipment and related apparatus and assists in the suppression of fires, including rescue, advancing lines, entry, ventilation and salvage work, extrication and emergency medical care of victims.

Makes fire code inspections of business establishments and prepares pre-fire plans

EDUCATION:

- 2006 Webster University - **Master of Business Administration**
Concentration: Management and Business
St. Louis, Missouri
- 2000 University of Memphis - **Bachelor of Professional Studies**
Concentration: Fire Administration and Fire Prevention Technology
Memphis, TN

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS:

- 1987 Fire Fighter I – State of Tennessee
1989 Fire Fighter II – State of Tennessee
1994 Fire Inspector I – State of Tennessee
1997 Fire Investigator – Memphis Fire Department
2001 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator – State of Tennessee

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- ✱ National Fire Protection Association
- ✱ International Association of Fire Chiefs
- ✱ International Code Council
- ✱ Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association
- ✱ Society of Professional Engineers
- ✱ Fire Museum of Memphis

AWARDS and HONORS:

- 2000 University of Memphis Distinguished Project Award – Juvenile Firesetters
2003 Assistant to Tennessee Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance

SIGNIFICANT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:

- 2007 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – Tennessee Emergency
Management Agency
- 2007 Advanced ICS Command and General Staff Complex Incidents -
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- 2003 Fire Alarm Systems – Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
- 2002 Code Management: A Systems Approach – National Fire Academy
- 2001 Pumps for Fire Protection – National Fire Sprinkler Association
- 1998 Emergency Response to Terrorism: National Fire Academy
- 1998 Interview and Interrogation – Tennessee Law Enforcement Training
Academy
- 1997 Basic Police Recruit Training – Memphis Police Academy