



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Media Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Fire Marshal Alfred “Frank” Bass Retires and Fire Marshal Cheryl Edwards Hired in Historic Appointment**

Lakeland, FL –The Lakeland Fire Department’s (LFD) Fire Safety Management division will be undergoing some changes in the coming days, as it announces the retirement of its current Fire Marshal, Alfred “Frank” Bass after 29 years of service.

Fire Marshal Bass joined the department in 1987 as a firefighter and went on to become a Fire Inspector and Investigator in 1994 before promoting to Fire Marshal in 2007. The position of Fire Marshal is an important one at LFD, as it is an integral part of the department’s Fire Administration and Leadership Team.

A ceremony will be held on Friday, March 11, 2016 at Fire Station 1 located at 701 E Main Street, Lakeland, FL from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM to wish Fire Marshal Bass well on his retirement and to thank him for his many years of service to the people of Lakeland.

The department would also like to announce that as a result of Fire Marshal Bass’ retirement, a new Fire Marshal, Cheryl Edwards, has been selected. Cheryl Edwards will begin in her new role on Monday, March 14, 2016. Her new promotion will be marked by a ceremony to be held on March 14 at Fire Station 1 at 9:30 AM.

This is an exciting and historic announcement for the Lakeland Fire Department, as Cheryl Edwards will be the department’s first female Fire Marshal and member of the Leadership Team in its 100 year history as a career fire department.

Cheryl joined the department in 1994 as the Public Education and Information Officer. She has since then served as Fire Inspector and Investigator, which she promoted to in 2008, and has served in the position until her most recent promotion to Fire Marshal.

Members of the community and media are welcome to attend both ceremonies.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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