



Pompano Beach Fire Rescue

FIRE ADMINISTRATION MEMO # 19-A006

To: Greg Harrison, City Manager
From: John Jurgle, Fire Chief
Date: 10/2/2018
Re: Justification for Dedication of Fire Administration and
Emergency Operations Center to Chief Small and Lieutenant
Poitier

Historically, the fire department has dedicated fire stations and vehicles to past employees who have significantly influenced the progress of the fire department or who had an impressive impact on the organization in various way. Some examples of this practice include the dedication of Fire Station 11 to William Fay for not only his years of service to the department, but also for his efforts and work with our Logistics Division and the design and development of our prototype fire station. Station 103 was dedicated to Chief Hedges for his years of leadership and commitment to the fire department in the early and formative years of not only the department, but especially the EMS program. Station 24 was dedicated to Chief Soderlund for his commitment to this city as he worked his way through the ranks, Union work, and eventually became not only the Fire Chief but also the City Manager of Pompano Beach. Finally, Station 61 was dedicated to Firefighter William Elliott who unfortunately died while performing his duties as a firefighter for Pompano Beach Fire Rescue.

The recommendation of the dual dedication of the proposed Fire Administration/EOC building to Chief Small and Lt. Poitier cannot be more appropriate because of the relationship these two people had throughout their lives, as well as their contributions to the City of Pompano Beach and Pompano Beach Fire Rescue. When one considers that 40 years ago on Valentine's Day, these two men with almost nothing in common met at the fire department and went on to develop such an exemplary friendship. By some accounts, they were arguably two of the most influential fire department employees in recent fire department history, thereby, making us all proud and why we would like to memorialize that relationship and their work here in this dedication.

Chief Small:

- Chief Small was hired on Valentine's Day in 1978 serving 35 years with Pompano Beach Fire Rescue in various positions from Firefighter to Fire Chief.
- Chief Small was the longest serving fulltime Fire Chief to date, with a tenure of 12 years as Fire Chief.
- Chief Small was a Pompano Beach Firefighter of the Year
- We often remember Chief Hedges as the father of EMS in Pompano Beach, however we must remember that it was Chief Small, who as a Lieutenant brought EMS into the modern ages here. He led the EMS division in the early 80s making it one of the premiere EMS agencies in the country.
- Chief Small developed and conducted the first EMT and Paramedic recertification program in the history of Pompano Beach Fire Rescue.
- Chief Small was responsible for the creation of the department's first Dive Team and High Elevation Rescue Team.
- Chief Small was responsible for the creation of our CERT program and taught CERT Programs around the country and at the National Fire Academy.
- Finally, Chief Small had the vision to see the need for a true Emergency Manager, as well as a Logistics Division and was responsible for the creation of those positions and Divisions.

Lieutenant Poitier:

- Lieutenant Poitier was the first African American firefighter hired in Pompano Beach in 1975 and the first African American Paramedic for Pompano Beach Fire Rescue. He rose through the ranks to the position of Fire Lieutenant and retired in 1999 after serving for 24 years.
- While serving on the department, Lt. Poitier was awarded the Firefighter of the Year Award.
- Lieutenant Poitier was one of the first members of the Dive Rescue Team.
- Lieutenant Poitier was one of the first CPR instructors and taught lifesaving CPR to hundreds of individuals and an original member of the Department's CPR and Public Education Team.
- After retirement in 1999 Lt. Poitier eventually ran for City Commissioner in District 4 and became Commissioner Poitier for 6 years.
- Mr. Poitier continues to server on multiple advisory boards throughout the city and remains a pillar in the northwest community.

What makes this dual dedication of this building so amazing is that Woody Poitier and Harry Small were truly like brothers. Each of these individuals would not want to have it any other way than to dedicate this building to both men for their unselfish

service to this City. They were the closest of friends and partners on the FD, but most important, they were lifelong brothers.