



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
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OCFA Discusses Recruitment Efforts with Community Leaders

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(Irvine) – To ensure that the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is receiving applications from the “best of the best,” Fire Chief Chip Prather and other OCFA officers recently brainstormed with community leaders to generate ways to enhance recruitment all across Orange County. The meeting was also intended to make small businesses aware of opportunities to contract with OCFA.

Among those participating in the June 21 meeting were the Reverend Mark Whitlock (Christ Our Redeemer AME Church in Irvine), Irvine Mayor Beth Krom, Sergio Prince (Assistant to Orange County Supervisor Pat Bates), Donald Craig (NAACP), Dr. Thomas Parham (Assistant Vice-Chancellor, UCI), the Reverend Frank Johnson (100 Black Men) and Gary and Gwen Oden (Oden Commission). Also in attendance were several college students exploring opportunities for employment with OCFA.



L-R, Reverend Mark Whitlock - Senior Minister, Christ Our Redeemer AME Church of Irvine, Chip Prather – Fire Chief OCFA, Dr Thomas Parham – Assistant Vice Chancellor UCI, Reverend Frank Jackson – 100 Black Men

The session examined ways OCFA might more effectively recruit job candidates from various communities throughout Orange County. Also discussed was how small businesses can learn about the contracting process so they have an opportunity to do business with OCFA.

“OCFA has many other employment opportunities beyond firefighter, with close to 300 administrative and support positions,” said Chief Prather. “These other positions are filled by talented and dedicated people who help ensure firefighter safety and public safety every day here in Orange County.”

“Many ideas and various means of outreach were discussed at the meeting, and the

OCFA will draw on those to enhance its current recruitment efforts,” Prather said. Among the ideas discussed were: adding a recruitment message to existing OCFA school programs; holding job fairs in conjunction with fire prevention week, and sharing a data base of community organizations and events.

For more information call (Stephen Miller, 714-573-6201).

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The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.