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Commission for Women

Fairfax County to Recognize Women on the Front Lines of the Pandemic

The Fairfax County Commission for Women recognizes Women Leaders in the County

Honoring “Women Warriors on the Front Lines of the Pandemic,” a special virtual forum on Fairfax County Channel 16 on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7 p.m.

March is Women’s History Month and the Fairfax County Commission for Women is using this opportunity to call attention to the achievements of women in the County. This year the Commission for Women will recognize three women leaders, the highest-ranking females in their departments: Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director of the Fairfax County Health Department, Deputy Chief Tracey Reed of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, and Fairfax County Police Department Captain Brooke Wright. Each of these women has shown exceptional leadership in her department during the pandemic. This celebration will be a virtual forum on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7 p.m. broadcast live on Fairfax County Channel 16 and a Commission for Women Facebook Live at

<https://www.facebook.com/commissionforwomen>.

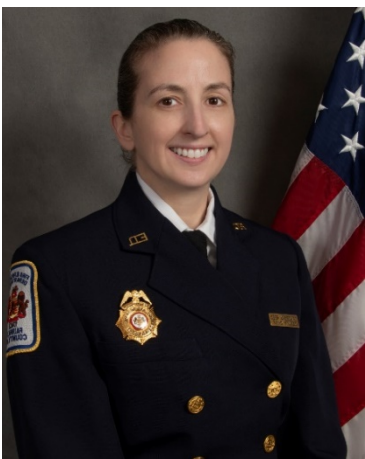
“They deserve our deep thanks and praise for their personal sacrifice and heroic efforts during the pandemic,” said Helen Cole, Hunter Mill Commissioner on the Commission for Women.

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Fairfax County Health Department

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director of Fairfax County Health Department, often communicates with the public, serving as the County’s point person on the coronavirus pandemic. Most recently, Dr. Addo-Ayensu has been responsible for the county’s vaccination program. In her capacity as the county’s top doc, she provides overall leadership and direction for public health programs and serves as the official health adviser to the Board of Supervisors.



Deputy Chief Tracey M. Reed
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



Operations Deputy Chief, Division I, C-Shift, Tracey Reed was a captain serving as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) supervisor when the pandemic began to impact Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) operations in March 2020. In addition to the normal stress and strain of emergency prehospital medical care, firefighters and paramedics faced additional challenges, including exposure to COVID-positive patients; increased workload; new decontamination procedures, and extra personal protective equipment (PPE), which added another layer of difficulty when working and communicating with patients, family members, bystanders, and each other. All FCFRD personnel were also acutely aware that workplace exposures could result in repeated quarantine from their families, friends, and coworkers. DC Reed was promoted to a broader leadership and management role during the pandemic where she focused on providing support to the frontline firefighters and paramedics, as well as the community they serve.

A 16-year veteran of the FCFRD, DC Reed has served in a variety of roles for the department including station commander, Emergency Medical Services supervisor, and battalion chief. She is also a member of Virginia Task Force 1, a domestic and international urban search and rescue team. Deputy Chief Reed founded the Girl's Fire and Rescue Academy for Middle and High School Girls to empower young women to push themselves beyond their capabilities.

Captain Brooke D. Wright
Fairfax County Police Department

In 2020 during the global pandemic, Captain Wright was the Commander at the Mason District Office. She is currently newly assigned to the Office of the Chief of Police.

Police officers worked their regular shifts while adapting to many changes in personal assignments and procedures, and an increase in calls on domestic violence, mental health crises, and property crimes. Changes included tracking Center for Disease Control recommendations, using personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitizer; detectives teleworking and helping with citizen calls and supporting food/supplies distribution for kids not in school; use of remote community meetings; and dealing with fatigue and family issues (child care).



Captain Brooke Wright, a veteran of the United States Air Force and a 22-year veteran of the FCPD, graduated first in her academy class and has risen through the ranks, having served as a patrol officer, school resource officer, detective, supervisor in investigations, assistant commander of the Public Information Office and commander of the Mason District Station.

To learn more about the Fairfax County Commission for Women, please go to:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/boards-authorities-commissions/commission-for-women/fact-sheet>

To learn more about the Fairfax County Women's History Month 2021, please go to:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/boards-authorities-commissions/commission-for-women>

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