



CITY OF OCEAN CITY

AMERICA'S GREATEST FAMILY RESORT

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Bernard F. Walker Fire Chief Ocean City Department of Fire & Rescue Services

Chief Bernard F. Walker is a dedicated public servant with twenty years of experience in the fire service and emergency response operations. He believes that it is a privilege to hold the title of Fire Chief of the Ocean City Department of Fire & Rescue Services. As such, he is committed to honoring the position by advocating for the men and women of the department and staying true to the fire service's core mission of life safety and property conservation. He is committed to maintaining the operational capabilities of the department and providing high level emergency services to the residents and visitors of Ocean City.



Chief Walker is a lifelong Cape May County resident who currently resides in Upper Township with his wonderful wife of twenty years Rachel, and their two children Lea and Joseph. He is an Ocean City High School alumnus and attended Rutgers University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in administration of justice. He was employed as a senior probation officer by the State of New Jersey prior to changing careers in 2005 and joining the Ocean City Fire Department as a firefighter and emergency medical technician. Over the course of his fire service career, Chief Walker has been honored with multiple awards associated with lifesaving action including a special recognition of valor by the New Jersey State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association in 2008, a proclamation by the City of Ocean City in 2015, as well as a 2020 department unit citation.

Chief Walker achieved the rank of Captain in 2015, followed by Deputy Chief in 2020, and most recently, Fire Chief in 2024. As a firm believer in the power of education and training, Chief

Walker holds numerous professional certifications in areas such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, emergency management, and fire officer leadership. Additionally, he is one of two Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators for the City of Ocean City, an Assistant Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Upper Township, as well as a Deputy Fire Coordinator for Cape May County. He is an active member of the New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association, New Jersey Emergency Management Association and is the current president of the Cape May County Fire Chiefs Association.

For over two decades he has volunteered as a youth sports coach and has been involved with numerous community events in both Ocean City and Upper Township. Outside of emergency services, Chief Walker's passion is spending time with his family, traveling and anything associated with boating and fishing.

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