

CHIEF JOHNNY L. MENIFEE
SOUTHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT



Elevate ▪ Educate ▪ Serve

When speaking to Chief Menifee you'll hear a common theme. Both his personal and professional mantra is to elevate, educate and serve.

For more than two decades Chief Menifee has served the Southfield Fire Department with pride. Joining the fire service as a cadet in November of 1993 he has taken advantage of every educational and promotional opportunity with a goal of not just being the chief of a major municipal fire department, but the chief of the Southfield Fire Department. Choosing to serve the City of Southfield in this capacity was not something done opportunistically or on a whim, Chief Menifee has worked and planned to be prepared for this specific position for many years.

A firm believer in higher education, Chief Menifee graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Safety Studies from Sienna Heights University, graduated summa cum laude with his Masters degree in Information Technology with a concentration in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from Eastern Michigan University. He fulfilled Staff and Command Executive Officer training with honors and has been invited back as a guest instructor on a university level. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland with certification in New Fire Chief II, Administrative Issues, and is an instructor at the Fire Training Institute at Oakland Community College training the next generation of firefighters as a passion where he has been a three time recipient of top instructor. He is an instructor for flashover firefighter survival and Rapid Intervention Team.

The chief is passionate about safety and customer service. He is honored to wear the badge that says Southfield Fire Department, and believes there is a public trust that comes with that honor. It is Chief Menifee's heartfelt belief that the minimum standard of professionalism in the way those in the fire service wear their uniforms, the way they interact and intersect with the members of the community who are customers, neighbors and business associates, and the way all fire service personnel conduct themselves inside and outside the firehouse carries a large responsibility.

Chief Menifee believes the job as the chief of a major metropolitan fire department needs to do more than wear the white helmet. He believes that a chief should be an active member of the community. He feels the chief needs to promote safety in elementary schools and middle schools. He strongly believes that the chief should be proactively talking to young people in our high schools about higher education that leads to the fire service. In 2013 the late Chief Keith Rowley afforded him the opportunity to start a mentoring program to build grades and leadership skills with students from the Southfield School District, a program he intends to add as a high priority as incoming chief of the department. Chief Menifee says, "I feel strongly that the chief must be working outside of fire headquarters, as well as behind the desk to make sure that our firefighters are working in a supportive environment in a department that enhances their safety by providing timely in-service training and providing opportunities for professional advancement".

An active participant in various non-profits, the chief chooses to perform meaningful and significant work including, as a long-time newsboy for Goodfellows, Shop with a Hero, Axemen motorcycle club and Children's Tooth Fairy Foundation. Every year he and his wife conduct the Menifee Family Holiday gift drive to donate toys to children during the holidays. The chief and his wife also adopt a new organization each year for donations or volunteer work including, All Hands Volunteers and All Hands Detroit, Matrix Human Services, and McLaren's Sister and Sister Fashion show where Chief Menifee danced as a model to raise money for mammograms for underserved women. With three daughters he is a big fan of pink and always dons a pink service shirt during breast cancer awareness month.

The City of Southfield was the chief's home for many years. His college-bound children attended school in the Southfield School District and his youngest daughter still attends school in the District. He owns a home and property in Southfield. He has community commitments in the area and his roots run deep in the City of Southfield.

Chief Menifee lives in suburban Detroit with his wife and three beautiful and brilliant daughters as well as a young man raised as his son. His wide variety of interests include motorcycles, classic cars, basketball, track & field, reading, mechanical repairs, carpentry, and family activities.

He has a deep and abiding love for God, Country, community and family. He is particularly interested in the plight of children and young people and has a soft spot for big dogs. He is proud to be the chief of the Southfield Fire Department and looks forward to serving the people of this community he loves, as well as the stellar men and women of the department.

(JLM 7/11/2016)