



Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District

636 Thomas Sherwin Ave. S.
Phone: (239) 303-5300

Lehigh Acres, FL 33974
Fax: (239) 369-2436

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Donald R. Adams, Sr.

October 5, 2012

Jeffrey Berndt, Chairman
636 Thomas Sherwin Avenue South
Lehigh Acres, FL 33974

RE: Letter of Retirement

Dear Chairman Berndt,

I will never forget the excitement of becoming a firefighter and paramedic. I could never have imagined how satisfying this career could be. I know only those that chose to be a firefighter can truly appreciate it. What an amazing ride on life's journey! As a firefighter/paramedic you truly learn the meaning of placing your life in another person's hands and someone placing their life in your hands. You witness firsthand the best and worst life has to offer. You experience the satisfaction that comes from being the ones called to help in everyone's time of need. I can't imagine a more rewarding career.

As one grows older they begin to reflect on their life. I'm not sure if there is a "right time" to leave a career, an organization, and family of firefighters that I have loved and been so passionate about for most of my adult life. I have poured by heart into the fire service since starting with the City of Orlando in 1975 and then to Lehigh Acres in 2006. Recently I have been reevaluating my priorities, faith and family. I have to apologize to my wife for taking precious time away from her as she battles cancer.

My deepest gratitude goes to Chairman Jeffrey Berndt and his insight as we have discussed many challenges and critical needs of the Fire District over the last six years. I am grateful to the Board of Commissioners, both present and past, for their continued support. Without their support we could not have obtained the SAFER Grant twice, with one of the grants being the highest awards for that period and building the reserves to one of the highest amounts for an independent fire district.

Finally, my thanks goes out to the men and women of this great Fire District, both past and present that helped to shape it. I appreciate the foundation laid by those who went before me. I believe we currently provide the best Advanced Life Support and fire suppression in the nation. To run this business it takes everyone, staff and combat firefighters, doing their jobs for us to be successful.

I want all to know it has been an honor and privilege to be a member of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District, to work with you each day and to serve as Fire Chief of this great organization. My advice would be to do all you can to continue to make and keep the Fire District great.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Adams, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald R. Adams, Sr., Ed.D.
Fire Chief