

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Jordan Hood and I am asking for your vote for Vice President of the IAFF Local 660. I was born and raised in Eastern Pennsylvania and have been active in the fire service since 2002 by following in my father's footsteps as a volunteer. In 2010 I moved to South Central Pennsylvania and started to pursue my goal and dream of becoming a paid firefighter. Interacting and working around individuals who were in the union in both the fire service and the engineers in the heavy equipment operating industry, I understood the importance of having the union as a form of an insurance policy for both myself and my family.

I was given the opportunity to work as a career firefighter in Prince George's County Maryland, before coming to the City of Charlotte. While doing so, I witnessed first-hand what the union could provide to the labor force. I understood and watched how collective bargaining was used and assisted the members of the department, and the importance of the union and the will to make our working environment better for us. I also was able to experience the importance of bringing outside training to allow the members of the union to become well versed in hands on training and leadership education.

While I understand the state of North Carolina is in fact a Right to work state, there is discussion at the federal level to enact the state to have bargaining rights bided by a contract for public safety members.

The vision I have for the department is mending the fences and making peace with the administration and collectively working with the fire department administration. The union and the administration staff need to collaborate and fight for our beliefs and what is right against the city. With this said, the IAFF International Union has a program called Fire OPS 101. This program could allow the local politicians to witness what our front-line members of our department do daily. I was able to witness the impact that this program brought to the DC Metro area. The uncertainty of what we do as firefighters and EMT's was answered and observed by the politicians who took the liberty of coming to the program. The politicians were able to put PPE on, cut apart vehicles, stretch a hose line into a burn building, throw ground ladders and get a real experience of what our job entails. However, this venture would need to be done with a joint effort between the Local 660 members and the Charlotte Fire Department.

Another aspect I would focus on is working with the city officials to continue fighting for continuation of the pay plan, and COLAs for our retirees and the

members who are still serving their tenure. Also looking into health insurance plans for retirees when they are eligible to retire.

Incorporating more outside hands on and leadership training, through funding by the Union would also be a big focus for me. By doing so, this can allow the training academy to focus on their tasks, but also allows the members of the department to gain more valuable training, experience, and education.

Working together with the health and safety division to form a joint program recognizing mental health and substance abuse would be another focal point. Allowing our members to work closely with a fire department staffed employee, who understands and relates with the members of the fire department.

We as Local 660 need to take care of our own; meaning the men and women in the streets, riding fire trucks. It is also important that we take care of the members who have paved the way to get our local to where it is today. The union members cannot do this on their own. It is imperative that we continue to enhance our membership by focusing on the future, not the past.

In conclusion I am asking for your support and a vote on Monday November 8th. And let's continue to collectively work together to take better care of all of our members.

Respectfully submitted

Jordan T. Hood