

Deputy Fire Chief John Nichols recently retired after 24 years of service with the City of White Plains Fire Department. Throughout his career, John gained experience across multiple disciplines, including engine and truck operations, incident command, technical rescue, and hazardous materials. As a member of the team that formed the city's first Heavy Rescue company, he became a certified technical rescue and hazardous materials specialist, contributing to the department's capabilities.

Promoted to Lieutenant in 2007, John earned national certifications in multiple levels as a Fire Instructor and Fire Officer. He also played a pivotal role in co-directing the regional fire academy, where he served as both a lead instructor and administrator for nine Academy classes, shaping the next generation of fire service leaders.

In 2013, John was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, where he led the Special Operations and Training Division while overseeing critical emergency management initiatives and spearheading multiple department wide projects. From 2018 until his retirement, he served as a Shift Commander in the Suppression Division, managing daily operations and emergency responses. During this time, he was instrumental in mentoring junior officers and developing the department's first formal training program for new chief officers, helping to build a strong foundation for future leadership.

Outside of his service, John is a dedicated husband and father of three children. He remains active in enhancing community safety, working closely with public safety agencies, government organizations, and the private sector to improve collaboration and response strategies.