



TOWN OF CLAYTON COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CLAYTON FIRE SECURES HIGHLY RESPECTED FIRE MARSHAL DESIGNATION

CLAYTON, NC – Fire Marshal Michael Tatum of the Clayton Fire Department receives one of the most prestigious credentials in the fire service, placing him among a select group of professionals nationwide. The designation recognizes the highest standards of leadership, technical skills, and dedication to public safety and highlights the Clayton Fire Department's commitment to excellence, continuous improvement, and service to the community.

Chief Tatum received the designation of Fire Marshal from the Commission on Professional Credentialing through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Fire Chief David Ranes shared the recognition with the Clayton Town Council on Monday, March 2, praising Chief Tatum's leadership and dedication to public safety.

"It is an honor to receive this credential," said Chief Tatum. "This recognition reflects not just my efforts, but the support of the entire Clayton Fire Department and our community. It motivates me to continue improving our programs, educating our residents, and making our town a safer place for everyone."

The Fire Marshal designation is awarded through a rigorous peer review process that evaluates education, experience, professional development, technical competence, leadership, and contributions to the fire service. Of the more than 12,000 fire marshals in the United States, only 306 hold this credential. In North Carolina, Chief Tatum is one of only 29 fire marshals to achieve this distinction.

"This is truly a remarkable achievement," said Fire Chief David Ranes. "I believe Michael is the best Fire Marshal in the state of North Carolina because of his expertise, leadership, and dedication to keeping our community safe."

The credential recognizes Chief Tatum's commitment to fire prevention, code enforcement, public education, and community risk reduction. It underscores his professional growth, accountability, and dedication to keeping the Town of Clayton safe.

"He received this designation while completing a bachelor of science in Emergency Fire and Emergency Service Administration at Fayetteville State University, raising four children, supporting his family as a husband, and leading growth and improvements in our Fire Marshal's Office," said Ranes. "His dedication to professional development and service to our citizens sets the standard for our department and community."

Chief Tatum joined the Clayton Fire Department in July 2024, bringing more than 14 years of experience in fire code enforcement, inspections, emergency management, and



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investigations. He previously served as an Assistant Fire Marshal with the Cary Fire Department, where he managed new construction inspections and supported fire investigations. Tatum holds an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Protection from Fayetteville Technical Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Services Administration from Fayetteville State University. His key certifications include Level III Fire Inspector, NC State Certified Fire/Arson Investigator, and Firefighter II.

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Photo 1: Fire Chief David Ranes (left) presents the designation of Fire Marshal from the Commission on Professional Credentialing through the Center for Public Safety Excellence to Fire Marshal Michael Tatum (right) at a Town Council meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026.

Photo 2: Headshot of Fire Marshal Michael Tatum