



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# CITY OF BAYONNE

630 AVENUE C • BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002-3898  
TEL. (201) 858-6010 • FAX (201) 436-2413

JAMES DAVIS, *MAYOR*



**July 16, 2025 (PLEASE PLACE WITH PHOTO AND CAPTION.)**

**For immediate release:**

## **Fire Department Holds Graduation Ceremony for Fifteen New Recruits**

Recently, the Bayonne Fire Department held a graduation ceremony for fifteen new firefighters who completed their training at the Bergen County Fire Academy. The ceremony took place in the Bayonne City Council Chambers.

The new firefighters are Edwin Zorrilla, Jordy Ottenwalder, Ryan Guthrie, Angelo Scianni, Aurora DeVincenzo, Jesse Williams, Otto Mejia, Nicholas Konopka, Robert Fdyfil, William Berl III, Daniel Schumann, Rodney Pierce, Vincenzo Sita, Jake Peregrin, and Matthew Gregg.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mayor Jimmy Davis thanked and congratulated the new firefighters and their families. He said that the firefighters were joining “a long, proud tradition.” He observed that the firefighting career is about running towards emergencies and not running away from them. Mayor Davis promised the firefighters that the City of Bayonne would provide them with the newest equipment and technology.

Public Safety Director Robert Kubert explained to the new firefighters that their career would not be as it is shown on television. He said that the Bayonne Fire Department is “a very service-oriented organization.” Director Kubert urged the new group to be “very proud” of the services that they would be providing to the public. He thanked Mayor Davis and the City Council for their support of both the Fire and Police Departments. Director Kubert wished the new firefighters “a safe, long, and happy career.”

City Council Member At-Large Loyad Booker congratulated the fire academy graduates. He told them, “You don’t know what’s ahead of you.” He urged them, “Look out for one another.”

Fire Chief Keith Weaver asked everyone to keep Firefighter Joe Coughlin, Jr. in their thoughts and prayers. Firefighter Coughlin passed away recently. Chief Weaver cited the Davis Administration’s commitment to maintaining staffing levels in the Fire Department since 2014. New firefighters have come on board due to numerous retirements over the years. Chief Weaver said that the updating of the department’s rigs is continuing. He announced that a ladder truck and an engine are on order. Speaking to the new firefighters, Chief Weaver said, “I am proud of you for your commitment,” and “you have earned the right to be here.” Then the department shared a video with the audience that highlighted the new firefighters’ training at the Bergen County Fire Academy.

By tradition, each of class of firefighters is dedicated to someone associated with the Fire Department. Chief Weaver announced that the latest class was being dedicated to Deputy Chief William Bartos, who will be retiring effective November 1. Deputy Chief Bartos

has served the City of Bayonne for more than forty years, beginning with three years as a policer officer before he became a firefighter. After thanking the department for the honor, Deputy Chief Bartos said that he is grateful for all the people he has worked with. He reminded the new firefighters that “we succeed or fail as a team,” and urged them, “never stop learning.”

The Fire Department provided brief biographical information about the new firefighters.

Edwin Zorrilla is a graduate of Union City High School. He continued his studies at New Jersey City University, where he studied Accounting. He was employed previously by the Bayonne Police Department.

Jordy Ottenwalder is a graduate of Bayonne High School. Before becoming a firefighter, he worked at the Jersey City Medical Center, Liberty Landing, and Auto Zone.

Ryan Guthrie is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at New Jersey City University. Before joining the Fire Department, he worked for Statue City Cruises.

Angelo Scianni is a graduate of St. Peter’s Prep. He continued his studies at DeVry University, majoring in Network Communications Management. He worked previously as a Telecommunications Technician at LCS Business Systems and a Support Specialist at Red Bull in New York.

Aurora DeVincenzo is a graduate of Bayonne High School. She furthered her education at New Jersey City University, where she majored in Economics. She worked previously in the financial industry for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

Jesse Williams is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He continued his education at St. Peter's University and Kean University, studying Public Policy. He was employed previously at Bayonne High School and Google.

Otto Mejia is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He continued his studies at Hudson County Community College and New Jersey City University. He worked previously at Bozzato Property Management.

Nicholas Konopka is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He worked previously at the Bayonne Police Department.

Robert Fdyfil is a graduate of New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy. He studied Criminal Justice at Hudson County Community College. Before becoming a firefighter, he worked for CVS pharmacy.

William Berl III is a graduate of Bayonne High School. Prior to joining the Fire Department, he was a co-owner of Breathe Better.

Daniel Schumann is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He worked previously for Tropicana Brands.

Rodney Pierce is a graduate of New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy. He began his public safety career as a Hudson County Sheriff's Officer.

Vincenzo Sita is a graduate of St. Peter's Prep. He continued his education at Ramapo College, where he studied Communication Arts. He was employed previously at Pizzamaster and Rising Rebels Baseball.

Jake Peregrin is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He was employed previously as a Telecommunications Apprentice with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 164.

Matthew Gregg is a graduate of Marlboro High School. He continued his education at Northshore Community College and Kingsborough Community College, majoring in Liberal Arts and Fire Science. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was employed previously at Renovation Construction as an Iron Worker.

At the ceremony, the Fire Department Honor Guard led the processional. Pipe major Bill Petersen provided the music. Rev. Dorothy Patterson of the Wallace Temple A.M.E. Zion Church offered the invocation. City Clerk Madelene Medina administered the oath of office. Rev. John Fencik of St. Mary's Orthodox Church offered the benediction.