



## FIRE COMMISSIONER ADAM K. THIEL

### Philadelphia Fire Department

On May 16, 2016, Mayor James Kenney appointed Adam K. Thiel to serve as the 20<sup>th</sup> Fire Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia. Commissioner Thiel is responsible for leading the Department's 2,500-plus uniformed and civilian members in addressing emergencies arising from all hazards.

In February 2014, he was appointed to serve as a Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In that role, he helped provide strategic direction, policy advice, management oversight, and operational coordination for eleven agencies with an overall budget of more than \$3.1B and 30,000 employees. Deputy Secretary Thiel was directly responsible for the Departments of: Emergency Management, Fire Programs (including the State Fire Marshal's Office), Military Affairs (Virginia National Guard), and State Police, along with the state's Homeland Security and Resilience portfolio.

Adam has also served as the Governor's deputy Homeland Security Advisor (dHSA), deputy Chief Resilience Officer (dCRO), Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), and FirstNet State Single Point of Contact (SPOC). He facilitated the *Secure Commonwealth Panel* and *Rail Safety/Security Task Force*, co-led the state's *National Disaster Resilience Competition* (NDRC) project team to a \$120.5M Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award, and collaborated with a myriad of agencies in managing all aspects of Virginia's homeland security enterprise.

He was the fire chief for the City of Alexandria, Virginia from 2007-2014 and chaired the *Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS) Steering Committee*.

Commissioner Thiel's 24 years' experience spans five states (MD, NC, VA, AZ, and PA) as a chief fire officer, incident commander, company officer, fire and emergency services instructor, hazardous materials team leader, paramedic, technical rescuer, structural/wildland firefighter, swiftwater rescuer, and rescue SCUBA diver; he has directly participated in response and recovery efforts for multiple Presidentially-declared disasters, including the 9/11 tragedy, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, an earthquake, and major blizzards.

In addition to public service, Adam has co-founded two successful consulting practices advising clients on the merits of crisis management, leadership, training development, risk analysis, and business strategy. He is a widely published author, and internationally sought after speaker.

Commissioner Thiel completed doctoral coursework in Public Administration and Public Policy at Arizona State University (ABD) and George Mason University, respectively; earned his M.P.A. degree from George Mason University; received his B.S. in Fire Science from the University of Maryland University College; and earned his B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Additionally, he has completed the *Virginia Executive Institute*, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government*, and the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security *Executive Leaders Program*.

Adam is a Chief Fire Officer® (CFO) designee, Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM), Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers (FIFireE), and holds several National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-standard professional qualifications. He currently serves on multiple boards and committees, including the: NFPA *Fire Service Section Executive Board* and *Technical Committee on Emergency Service Organization Risk Management*; Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) *Fire Council* and *Firefighter Safety Research Institute*; American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) *Section on Emergency and Crisis Management (SECM) Executive Board*; George Washington University's *Center for Cyber and Homeland Security Board*; and *National Fire Academy Board of Visitors*.

Fire Commissioner Thiel is an Ironman® triathlon finisher, Crossfit® athlete, bicyclist (road and mountain), kayaker, martial arts practitioner, and aspiring gardener. Most importantly, he is the father of two energetic and accomplished teenagers.