

Bio – Updated 6.16.2022

Captain Matthew Parrish;

Captain Parrish Joined the Columbus Division of Fire in 1992 where he currently serves as Fire Chief Jeffrey Happ's -Chief of Staff. He is certified as a Professional Firefighter, Paramedic, CIT Officer, Hazmat Officer, and Emergency Medical Communications Dispatcher. Additionally, he oversees the Division's RREACT (Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team) and SPARC (Special Program Assessing Resource Connectivity) programs.

Captain Parrish serves on several community committees and work groups sharing his experience and perspective as a first responder and advocating for the vulnerable and marginalized residents of Central Ohio. Some of the committees include the **Columbus CARE Coalition, Central Ohio Trauma Systems (COTS) – Coalition Advisory Board, Franklin County ADAMH- Crisis Care Community Advisory Council. The Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan steering committee. OHMAS Crisis Care Task Force, OSU Wexner Opiate Crisis Committee.** Additionally, Captain Parrish is a Board Member of After-School All-Stars, a non-profit that serves at-risk youth in central Ohio and across the country. He serves as a mentor in the RREACT buddies program which he helped formed in partnership with ASAS and The Columbus division of Fire.

Captain Parrish has received numerous awards and accolades over his 30 year career of public service with The Columbus Division of Fire including multiple Distinguished Service and Medal of Merit Awards for the lifesaving efforts of fire victims and individuals experiencing life-threatening medical emergencies. Most recently he was recognized as the **2020 State of Ohio EMS Provider of the year** along with receiving the Fire Chief's award in 2020 & 2021 for his work with the RREACT & SPARC Programs. Captain Parrish's work with the community and partner agencies have resulted in several external awards including **The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Ohio Region V – 2019 Public Citizen of the year, Ohio State University's 2019 Douglas A. Rund Leadership in EMS Award, The Franklin County ADAMH Borad - 2019 Barry Mastrine Award and The CADA 2022 Hometown Hero Award.**