



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Appointments to the Fire Advisory Board

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the powers vested in me by Section 1403 of the Erie County Charter, I hereby appoint the following individual to the Fire Advisory Board for a term ending December 31, 2027.

Mark Mendola
388 Seneca Place
Lancaster, NY 14086
New Appointment

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (716) 858-8500.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

MCP/am

cc: Appointee
Christopher Couell

Mark Mendola

(716) 445-3301
mamendola388@gmail.com
388 Seneca Place
Lancaster, NY 14086

January 12, 2026

**Deputy Commissioner
Christopher Couell**

**Erie County Fire Advisory
Board**

Dear Deputy Commissioner Couell:

Please consider me as an applicant for the Erie County Fire Advisory Board. I feel that my diverse background has prepared me for this role in several ways. My 30 years in fire service blends my real world experience with a set of principles for the well being of all firefighters in WNY.

In January 1996, I became a Buffalo firefighter. While attending the academy, a few instructors made an impression on me. Their ability to continually help me to improve was exemplary. The officers met early (before class) to reinforce lessons and hands on skills. I have never forgot that about them. This inspired me to "pay it forward" within multiple positions throughout my career and after retiring in 2022.

Recently, I have been a part of two noble endeavors which will help our region. Last year, I was hired as NYS Fire Instructor. This role allows me to assist in the preparation of future firefighters. Through training, I am able to pass along information regarding the needs of current fire departments and their members. Upon being a participant of the Erie County Advisory Board, I can bring suggestions from the field with lasting results.

In addition, I am the local ambassador with the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer. The NFR's main goals are cancer prevention, improving personal protective equipment, and improving the presumptive laws regarding cancer. We must continue to improve the coverage for our brothers and sisters who respond every day. My mission is to make sure there is never another line of duty death from firefighter related cancer. The Erie County Advisory Board can have a direct role which I would like to assist with.

In conclusion, I would be honored to contribute my experience, perspective, and commitment to public safety as a member of the Erie County Fire Advisory Board. I am dedicated to supporting the fire service community, strengthening collaboration across agencies, and helping advance policies that protect firefighters. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Mark Mendola

COMM. 7E-2
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Mark A Mendola

(716) 445-3301 - mamendola388@gmail.com
388 Seneca Place, Lancaster, NY 14086



OBJECTIVE

- Find a position utilizing my first responder supervisory skills, training experience and knowledge

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Supervise multiple firehouses and personnel
- Perform essential administrative duties/paperwork
- Development of incident action plans at scenes
- Use, maintain and inspect equipment efficiency
- Strong interpersonal and conflict resolution skills
- Proactive and self-motivated with calm disposition
- Exceptionally organized presentation traits
- Instruct training modules with "hands on" tasks

FIRE SERVICE EXPERIENCE

National Firefighter Registry for Cancer Jun 2025 - present
WNY Ambassador

- Educate and conduct presentations with local fire departments regarding cancer awareness

Buffalo Fire Department Jan 1996 - Dec 2022
Battalion Chief Feb 2018 - Dec 2022
EMT Jan 2010 - present

- Advanced through career as *Firefighter, Lieutenant, Hazmat Technician, Captain*, and as a *Battalion Chief*, ultimately, accountable for the implementation of fire safety and suppression within the city

INSTRUCTOR EXPERIENCE

NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control Feb 2025 - present
State Fire Instructor

- Provided instruction for OFPC training courses
- Completed administrative paperwork

Buffalo Fire Training Bureau Jan 2016 - Dec 2022
Lead Trainer May 2015 - Dec 2016
Battalion Captain Sep 2009 - Sep 2012
Instructor

- Prepared newly appointed fire recruits in five separate, twelve-week academies for the NYS
- Supervised six lieutenants as well as thirty recruits in most recent academies
- Adjunct instructor on Initial Bailout System training for the entire department's 700 members
- Lead instructor on Ladder Company Operations and First Line Supervisor training programs

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Command & Control of Multiple Alarm Incidents
Step Up and Lead Seminar
Fire Ground Survival
Command & Control Incident Operations
First Line Supervisor Training Program
Rescue Tech Basic
Nationally Certified Fire Service Instructor 1
Fire Officer 1
Incident Safety Officer
Firefighting Essentials
Apparatus Operator for Engine/Ladder

ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Getzville Rapid Intervention Training
Instructor Apr 2023 & Apr 2024
Bowmansville Volunteer Fire Association
Active Firefighter/EMT Mar 2014 - Aug 2022
Advanced Firefighter Training
Co-Owner/Instructor Sep 2019 - Sep 2022

- Taught surrounding fire/police departments forcible entry, elevator rescue, rapid intervention

Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies
University at Buffalo Graduate Feb 1992