

Administration

1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2
Bunnell, FL 32110



www.flaglercounty.org

Phone: (386)313-4001

Fax: (386)313-4101

Julie Murphy
Flagler County
Public Information Officer
(386) 313-4039
Email jmurphy@flaglercounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito retires

July 15, 2020 – Flagler County’s highly accomplished Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito announced his retirement early Wednesday morning.

“Don Petito made a tremendous impact on Fire Rescue services in Flagler County during his 15 year tenure,” said County Administrator Jerry Cameron. “We look forward to tapping into his considerable expertise in the future.”

Petito was instrumental in improving countywide Emergency Medical Services, including: upgrading protocols; adding a medical director; creating a Community Paramedicine program (the only one in the region); becoming a state-certified EMS training site; developing a community CPR training calendar; and, becoming a Regional Training Center for the American Heart Association which enables Flagler County to provide courses in CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

Flagler County trained a world champion EMS Competition Team under Petito’s leadership that thrice took titles in the Czech Republic, as well as being three-time Florida State Champion, and championship titles in Georgia, Iowa, and New York.

Petito applied for and was awarded many grants including: \$650,000 to upgrade and replace all EKG machines on all apparatus; American Heart Association grant for 53 automated external defibrillators (AED); and, a \$253,000 Public Safety Interoperability Grant to upgrade radios.

Special Teams were developed and flourished under Petito, such as: the Marine Rescue Program for flood, marine, and ocean rescue; and, Urban Search and Rescue – one of 43 state teams – to address high angle rescue, confined space, structural collapse, vehicle and machinery extrication, and trench rescue.

Petito implemented Traffic Control Device Program where each emergency vehicle is equipped with a device that can calculate the direction of travel and speed of the vehicle and turn all traffic control devices green to clear intersections for the emergency vehicle. The benefits are better response times and fewer accidents.

Other achievements include:

- Improved the ISO rating from a 9 to a 3

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Joe Mullins
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

- Participated in the transition from a VHF radio system to a 800 MHz system
- Developed a wildfire response team
- Upgraded wildfire apparatus and gear
- Opened Station 16
- Added a rescue vehicle to stations 41, 51, 71
- Consolidated with the Bunnell Fire Department
- Participated in the design and opening of the EOC
- Developed a high school fire academy

“We are certain Don Petito will continue to make a positive contribution to the community in his future endeavors,” Cameron said. “We wish him well.”

###