

MISSION

Our mission is to actively participate in promoting, encouraging, advising, and producing professional competent African-American firefighters while ensuring equality, and promoting diversification in the fire service and the community.



AUSTIN AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*"Serving Our Firefighters
Serving Our Community"*



TEL: 512.857.6469

AAAFFA

Austin African-American Firefighter's
Association
PO Box 14942
Austin, TX 78761-4942
Phone: 512.857.6469
Fax: 320.386.0348
E-mail: AAAFFA@Hotmail.com
www.aaaffa.org

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The need to establish an association for black professional firefighters in the Austin Fire Department (AFD) came as a result of exclusion, oppression, racist acts, unfair and biased treatment, and the large need to provide role models, mentors and community services for our community. The Austin African American Firefighters Association was officially founded in 1995.

In the department an association-like atmosphere always existed in the beginning as the first few Black Firemen were hired and were a support to one another during a time of extreme prejudice and oppressive actions. In 1993 the beginning meetings took place to form the Austin Black Firefighter's Association and in 1995 the name was officially changed to the Austin African-American Firefighter's Association and became an established chapter of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters (IABPFF).

In 1977 a federally mandated consent decree was issued for the Austin Fire Department in response to the lack of diversity recruiting practices. Thank-

fully there were courageous brothers who stood up to the unprofessional practices occurring in the department and pushed for corrective measures. Over the years after the consent decree ended in 1982, the Black Firefighter's Association has seen many changes and growth in AFD but the numbers began to decline and continue to do so. This decline in minority numbers goes against the city's goal of diversity in public service departments that reflect the demographics of the city's population.



Pass the Torch Participants

Photo Courtesy of Austin Fire Department

OBJECTIVES

- Provide to the community, mentors and role models
- Work with the City of Austin's goal and efforts to have a diverse fire department



Austin Fire Department Honor Guard

- Provide information and career guidance
- Aid in communicating firefighter opportunities within Austin Fire Department to the public

- Provide advice and assistance

COMMUNITY

Community involvement is very important to us. Some of the programs we have provided to the Austin community involve:

- Elementary and Secondary School mentorship programs
- Assisting with voter registrations
- Neighborhood clean-up programs
- Austin Fire Department's *Pass the Torch* youth basketball camps and fire academies
- Community assistance programs
- Scholarship Program
- The Explorer Post program

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Scholarship Awards
- Professional Association
- Community Service
- Free notary services
- Business networking
- Professional support
- Social activities
- Free Lunch
- and much more...



Our annual events include:

Firefighters extinguishing a propane tank fire.

- Annual AAAFFA Ball and Fundraiser (January)
- Our annual basketball *Pass The Torch* camp is held during the summer months for youth
- Annual MLK March (January)
- Annual Juneteenth Parade and Celebration
- Supports The Pass The Torch Fire Academy

AAAFFA

Austin African-American Firefighter's Association
 PO Box 14942
 Austin, TX 78761-4942
 Phone: 512.857.6469
 Fax: 320.386.0348
 E-mail: AAAFFA@Hotmail.com