AFESA Ethics Subcommittee Spotlight

Melissa Heiderman — *Administrative Coordinator – City of Manassas (VA) Fire Rescue*

With more than 16 years in the fire service, I've had the unique opportunity to grow alongside a brand-new department. As the very first Administrative Coordinator in our newly formed career department, my role has shifted and evolved many times to meet the changing needs of our combination system. Today, I proudly serve as both Administrative Coordinator and Data Analyst for a department that has expanded to more than 70 members (which is double the size that it was at the beginning).

Throughout my career, I have supported leadership, served as liaison to the Fire and Rescue Committee, and worked behind the scenes to ensure that our first responders have what they need to focus on saving lives. While I may not be on the front line, I am passionate about supporting public safety professionals who serve our community every day.

Outside of work, I am most proud of my family—my daughter and granddaughter. Having been a single mother myself, and now watching my daughter walk that same path, I know the strength and resilience it takes. Often times my daughter was right by my side at nighttime meetings, weekend events, and City Council meetings. It instilled a work ethic that is unmatched. That same determination carries over into my commitment to the fire service and the people who dedicate their lives to it. My hope is to never stop learning new things that benefit the people around me.

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