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City of Downey

# Press Release

## City Council promotes Deputy Fire Marshall to Top Fire Department Post

### **Citing years of dedicated service, Council names Donald “Lonnie” Croom new Fire Chief**

Downey, CA, November 23, 2010

The City Council of the City of Downey is pleased to announce that current Deputy Fire Marshall Donald D. Croom, a Downey High School graduate, will be sworn in as Downey’s new Fire Chief following the retirement of current Chief Jeff Turner.

Beginning work with the City as a firefighter 26 years ago, Lonnie (as he is known to colleagues and family) quickly distinguished himself by coordinating the Fire Explorer Program and the statewide California Fire Exploring Academy and by developing an innovative, computer-based Emergency Medical Technician training-enrichment program.

“For almost three decades, Lonnie has been a model of service and dedication to public safety, even volunteering in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, supervising 400 personnel in disaster recovery efforts,” said Mayor Anne M. Bayer.

Promoted up through the ranks of the Downey Fire Department, Croom served on engine and truck companies, as a paramedic and as a fire engineer, becoming a Fire Captain in 1996 and Deputy Fire Marshall in 2008. “I’ve watched our new Chief’s leadership skills develop over his many years with the City, and I’m confident that Chief Croom will ensure the Downey Fire Department continues to provide the highest level of fire and safety protection and emergency response services,” praised City Manager Gerald M. Caton. When asked about his new appointment Croom stated, “This is a dream come true, to be able to serve the community in which I grew up.”

The new Fire Chief is a certified Emergency Medical Technician, a State Fire Officer, a Fire Investigator and Prevention Officer, a State Explorer Academy Instructor and a Training Officer. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Long Beach.

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For Immediate Release