



## **Fire Chief Gina Sweat**

Gina Y. Sweat began her career as a firefighter with the Memphis Fire Department on May 26, 1992. She was promoted through the ranks of the department as a Driver, Lieutenant, Battalion Chief and Division Chief. Beginning in 2014, she assumed the duties of the Deputy Chief of Logistics and Deputy Director on an interim basis. Finally, on January 1, 2016, Gina was appointed by Mayor Jim Strickland as the Fire Chief for the Memphis Fire Department.

She earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in Marketing from Freed-Hardeman University in 1988 where she also played collegiate basketball. After joining the Memphis Fire Department, she continued her education by obtaining a Bachelor's of Professional Studies in Fire Administration in 2000 and a Master's of Professional Studies in Strategic Leadership in 2013, both from the University of Memphis.

During her tenure as Chief, the Memphis Fire Department has focused on initiatives to improve operations which helped raise their Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification from a Class 2 to a Class 1. The department has developed the Healthcare Navigator Program intended to reduce the impact of non-emergent responses. The department focused on recruiting through youth programs such as HERo day, Shelby County Schools Grow Our Own, Fire Explorers, Fire Cadet and lateral hiring. She developed a facilities master plan that has resulted in multi-million-dollar renovations to the 911 Communications Center, the Office of Emergency Management building, 3 new state of the art fire stations and a new fire administrative building. Chief Sweat has focused on many health and safety issues including purchasing SCBA with built-in thermal imaging cameras, on-duty health physicals, multiple carcinogen reduction initiatives, therapy dog program, and an online therapy program. The Memphis Fire Department became the lead agency for COVID-19 vaccinations in Shelby County in 2021 facilitating the delivery of over 1 million doses. Chief Sweat contributes these successes and more to the dedicated members of the department who make a difference in the City of Memphis every day.