

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION  
HONORING STAMFORD FIRE CHIEF ROBERT (REX) MORRIS, SR.  
FOR WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS  
2025 TOM BRENNAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM  
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE (FDIC)**

**WHEREAS**, the fire service is built on leadership, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to protecting others—qualities that define Robert (Rex) Morris Sr. with a distinguished career spanning more than five decades, including 40 years with the FDNY and his current role as chief of the Stamford (CT) Fire Department, Morris has been a guiding force in fireground operations, technical rescue, and firefighter training; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert (Rex) Morris, Sr. was named chief of the Stamford Fire Department in February 2024 after having served as the assistant chief of volunteer services since 2014, overseeing all five of the city's volunteer fire companies, and had been serving as Interim Chief since October 2023. Some of his accomplishments as Assistant Chief included consolidating the "Big 5" volunteer fire departments, bringing them in as a division of the Stamford Fire Department, upgrading the Volunteer Officer level of certification to be equal to the Career Officers; Instituting new fire hose and hose nozzles citywide for all engine companies; upgrading the high-rise firefighter procedures, and instituting the North Stamford Fire Plan to aid in fire protection in North Stamford due to lack of fire hydrants to include automatic response of both career and volunteer companies and surrounding towns to improve services there; and

**WHEREAS**, colleagues describe him as a 'firefighter's firefighter,' a visionary leader, and a mentor whose impact is felt across generations. Whether rebuilding Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Rescue 1 after 9/11, developing pioneering forcible entry techniques and tools, or instituting groundbreaking operational improvements in Stamford, his contributions have shaped modern firefighting. Known for his humility, quiet confidence, and dedication to excellence, he has influenced countless firefighters, not just through instruction but through the example he sets every day; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Morris previously, during a 40-year career with FDNY, was captain/company commander of Rescue 1, a captain in Ladder 28, a lieutenant in Ladder 44 and Engine 42, and a firefighter in Rescue 3, Ladder 42 and Engine 60. In addition, he has numerous IFSAC and Pro Board certifications, New York City and New York State certifications, and 28 meritorious awards from FDNY; and

**WHEREAS**, his fire response tool inventions include The Rex Tool, The Mono Pod, The Hydraulic Lifting Strut system and other equipment for providing air remotely through fire hose to supply and operate high-volume rescue tools such as jackhammers and air drills. Chief Morris is also a longtime instructor of forcible entry at FDIC and the author of the New York City Fire Department Forcible Entry Handbook and of the *Fire Fighter Hand Book* (Delmar Publishing).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives honors Stamford Fire Chief Rex Morris, Sr. for his years of service of providing innovative fire safety and education to the larger Stamford community and congratulates him for being the recipient of the FDIC 2025 Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.

*Approved by the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives  
This 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025*

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Jeff Curtis, President

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Megan Cottrell, Clerk