



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Birmingham City Commissioner Suits Up for Training at Fire OPS 101**

BIRMINGHAM, MI, October 16, 2020 – The heat was on for Birmingham City Commissioner Stuart Sherman and other local lawmakers and media partners at **Fire OPS 101: FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE**, a daylong program in which participants learned exactly how complex and challenging it is to keep our communities safe.

During the event on October 8, Commissioner Sherman and other officials had the opportunity to suit up and walk in the boots of a first responder as they participated in hands-on training including live fire conditions, search and rescue, vehicle extrication and other emergency medical situations under the controlled supervision of local professional firefighters.

"This was a great learning experience and an excellent opportunity to see first-hand how physically demanding a firefighter's job is," said Birmingham City Commissioner Stuart Sherman. "We are so fortunate to have these highly trained individuals working to keep our community safe. It was very exciting to see our own Birmingham firefighters instruct all of us on vehicle extrication. They did an outstanding job demonstrating and then allowing us to actually remove the doors and roll back the roof of a car. This program helped me to better understand what our firefighters do. Any time I can learn more about what our City employees' jobs entail only helps me to better serve our City."



Commissioner Stuart Sherman (L) and Birmingham Fire Chief, Paul Wells (R)

The workshop took place at Oakland Community College's CREST training site, where Birmingham and other local fire departments demonstrated aspects of fire and emergency medical service operation, through various live demonstrations and scenarios. Fire OPS 101 was one of the many activities the Birmingham Fire Department participated in during this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign to engage and educate the community in fire prevention and safety. Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. The Birmingham Fire Department reminds you - if you have a fire, get out and stay out – call 911.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week and the Birmingham Fire Department, please visit [www.bhamgov.org/fire](http://www.bhamgov.org/fire).

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