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SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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Dedicated Fire Inspector Position to Increase Public Safety

Macomb Township Firefighter with Passion for Fire Prevention Takes on New Role

Macomb Township, Mich., — The easiest fires to put out are the ones that never got a chance to ignite. When critical preventative steps are taken, it ensures our first responders, and our community members all make it home safely at the end of the day. Firefighter Vince Pozzuoli accepted the promotion to Fire Inspector where he will be able to fight fires before they even start.

“Now that the township has invested in a full-time, dedicated inspector I’m hoping we will be able to get more inspections done and make this an even safer community,” Pozzuoli said.

While Macomb Township has always had licensed fire inspectors on staff, the addition of a Fire Inspector position means 40-hours a week someone will be available to inspect new buildings, do routine checks on existing buildings and ensure this is safe community to work and live. Pozzuoli will also oversee public education, including fire prevention week in October. He joins the ranks as a fire prevention expert as the National Fire Protection Association celebrates its 100th year of using a week in October to educate others about fire risks.

“It’s a position that’s needed and worthy of a dedicated, full-time person that’s focused solely on doing inspections,” Fire Chief Robert Phillips said. “My hope is that we’ll have a safer community and we’ll be able to get more routine inspections done.”

Several years ago, on his own time Pozzuoli took arson investigation courses with the Michigan State Police and became a licensed fire inspector to further his education as a firefighter. While it fascinated him, he wanted to do something more proactive.

“I thought to myself, ‘Well that’s dirty work, it’s necessary but dirty.’ I was looking for something more proactive, where I could prevent tragedies from happening,” Pozzuoli

said. "I'm looking forward to the rewarding work that will make this an even better place to be."

Not only will the township have a dedicated fire inspector, but four men within the department have fire inspector certificates, giving Pozzuoli a group to lean on as he takes on these new responsibilities.

"He has a network of people that he can rely on that will help to grow as he moves forward in his career," said Deputy Fire Chief Adam Munro. "He's an all-around good person and has always been one of our go-to guys to get things done in the department."

The second-generation firefighter has help from colleagues and support from family as well. Pozzuoli's father, a retired Detroit firefighter, encouraged his passion for fire prevention.

"My dad really pushed me toward this," Pozzuoli said "I thought about becoming an officer, but I spent a lot of time and effort keeping up my licenses and certificates for prevention. I wanted to do this. My dad was really encouraging of me moving in that direction."

Not only will the new position have a great benefit to the community, but the right person will be doing the job.

"Having a full-time fire inspector will do great things for our community and Vince Pozzuoli is exactly the kind of person we want representing Macomb Township," said Supervisor Frank Viviano.

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