



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

December 29, 2016

To the Honorable City Council
of the City of Pasadena

Mayor and Councilmembers:

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

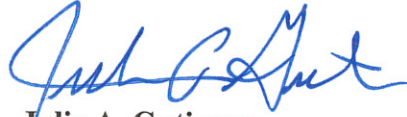
1. **Pasadena Fire Department Collaborates with Reading Partners to Encourage Literacy across the Pasadena Unified School district (PUSD):**

Over the holiday season, Pasadena firefighters worked with Reading Partners to volunteer their time to students in the PUSD who struggle with reading. On December 19th, 20th, and 21st, firefighters of all ranks attended presentations by Reading Partners and signed up to commit their time to helping students over the next school year. The national nonprofit first expanded to Pasadena in 2012, providing resources to underserved students with one-on-one engaging and effective tutoring sessions. According to pre- and post-program assessments, the organization has had an 89% success rate in improving academic achievement for children who have fallen behind in reading skills. The fire department is enthusiastic about proactively addressing the problems in our community, and we are eager to provide our services through the Reading Partners Program.

Since May 2016, department leaders including President Scott Austin of Pasadena Fire Fighters Association 809 and Firefighter Steven Lawhorn have joined Chief Washington to work with Brian Biery of Collaborate PASadena and Chloe Oliveras of Reading Partners to bring this collaboration into fruition. Currently, at least 10 firefighters have signed up to volunteer an hour each week through an entire semester of instruction to assist third graders to reach their appropriate reading levels in Pasadena schools. According to Fire Chief Bertral Washington, as part of the program, firefighters will be given structured curricula along with evaluative materials, standby staff, and various other tools that assist with the students' abilities to reach their full potentials. Reading Partners personnel are also thrilled to add firefighters to their volunteer cache. The children look up to these men and women as role models and this is a wonderful opportunity for both academic guidance and personal development for the children. By the end of one semester, the students should see noticeable improvements in reaching and surpassing reading skills of their grade levels.

Reading is a powerful foundation for future learning. By sharing their knowledge and experience, our firefighter volunteers may become not only reading partners, but also positive mentors and friends to the students they work with. The Fire Department believes that all children deserve the opportunity to succeed, and we are excited to take part in these efforts to further encourage and bolster literacy across the Pasadena community.

*Have a Happy and
Prosperous New Year!*



Julie A. Gutierrez
Assistant City Manager