



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Sharon Riddick Hoggard  
Marketing Manager  
757-393-5143 EXT 6265  
[hoggards@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:hoggards@portsmouthva.gov)

## **Portsmouth Fire Department Hosts 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Public Service Conference**

**(PORTSMOUTH, VA – July 30, 2018)** – The city of Portsmouth’s Fire Rescue and Emergency Services Department will host the **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Public Service (WIPS) Conference Thursday and Friday**, September 20-21, at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center. This year’s conference theme is *Breakthrough to Excellence*. The WIPS conference began in 2009, when the city’s fire, rescue and emergency services hosted a career development workshop for women in fire service. The brainchild of former Fire Chief Don Horton, the conference was conceived when he noticed there were only a few women in leadership roles. The first workshop was held in October at the new ODU Tri-Cities center in Portsmouth. Mary Beth Michos, deputy executive director and chief of operations for the International Association of Fire Chiefs was the keynote speaker. Thirty women in fire service, from Suffolk Fire and Rescue, Hampton Fire Department, Richmond Fire Department, Henrico County Division of Fire, as well as all the females from Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Department participated.

Today, WIPS is designed for all level of government and public sector employees. The regional conference committee is committed to providing regional public sector employees with the opportunity to learn, network and share personal and professional experiences. Additionally, participants will be able to participate in workshops dealing with conflict resolution, office-place bullying, preparing for promotion, new methodologies in solving issues unique to municipal government and more.

Early bird registration is going on now through August 17. During this period, the cost for the full conference is \$175. After early bird registration ends, the cost will be \$200 for the full conference and \$150 for a one-day attendance. Agencies sending 10 or more participants only pay \$125 per person. To register by mail, send registration form and fees to:

**Women in Public Service Regional Committee**  
311 County Street, Suite 200  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

For more information, email [wifconference@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:wifconference@portsmouthva.gov) or call 757-393-8765. Additional registration information follows.

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**10th ANNUAL  
WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE CONFERENCE**

**September 20-21, 2018**

Registration Form

**CONFERENCE & HOTEL LOCATION**

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel  
425 Water Street  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

The conference rate of \$93 per night is valid through August 20, 2018.

**[Book your group rate for Women in Public Service](#)**

**PARKING INFORMATION**

Parking is included in your registration

**WAYS TO REGISTER**

Email: [wifskonference@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:wifskonference@portsmouthva.gov)

Fax: 757-391-3272

Mail: Portsmouth Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
311 County Street, Suite 200  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

**PAYMENT**

All payments must be sent in the form of a check or money order payable to: Portsmouth City Treasurer

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations must be received in writing before September 1, 2018 in order to receive a refund. Substitutions may be made at any time by notification, in writing, to the registration committee.

**FULL CONFERENCE**

Meals Provided:

- Thursday – Breakfast, lunch
- Friday – Breakfast, lunch
- Access to Social Event (9/20): Spirit of Norfolk