



CENTRAL ISLIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S OFFICE

97 CARLETON AVENUE CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. 11722
TEL: 631-234-9145 – FAX: 631-234-6898
Organized 1906



PAST CHIEF & COMMISSIONER NEIL FINNIN

By Charles A. Murphy

Chief Neil Finnin joined the Central Islip Fire Department as a member of Hook & Ladder Company #1 in April of 1957. At the time of his membership, all six of the CIFD Companies operated out of the Fire House at #96 Carleton Avenue. After the completion of Station #2 on Wheeler Road, the H&L Company moved to that location where it has remained ever since.

Neil began to move up within the Hook & Ladder Company by becoming Secretary where he served from 1960 to 1961. In 1966, he was elected to the position of 2nd Lieutenant, and served as 1st Lieutenant from 1967 to 1969. He was elected as Captain in 1969 and remained in office until the completion of his term in 1971. With the passing of Deputy Chief Kenneth (K.O.) Jackson in August of 1975, Neil was nominated for the position of 2nd Assistant Chief and was elected in October of that year. He then served as 1st Assistant Chief from 1976 to 1978, as Deputy Chief from 1978 to 1980, and finally as Chief of the Department from 1980 to 1982. In 1983, Neil was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Fire Commissioners where he remained serving until 2011 – this represents a total of 28 years and is one of the longest terms served by a Central Islip Fire Commissioner in the history of the Fire District.

During his term on the Board, Commissioner Finnin was very instrumental in the planning and completion of several building projects including the construction of Headquarters (which was completed in 1991), the large storage building to the rear of Station #2 on Wheeler Road (completed in 1999), and the extension to Station #2 (which was completed in 2006). As a result of his determined efforts on the Station #2 project, the Board of Fire Commissioners installed a plaque on the front of this building acknowledging his role in the completion of this project. In addition, Neil was heavily involved in the planning and purchasing of numerous vehicles and other equipment purchases throughout his time served as a Fire Commissioner.

Chief Finnin continues to serve as the Treasurer of the Central Islip Fire Department Past Chiefs Council, currently serves as a Vice-President of the Islip Town Firefighters Museum, and is a dedicated member of the Central Islip Historic Preservation Society which is working on establishing a museum to feature the history of Central Islip in the Original Methodist Church on Wheeler Road.

Chief of the Department Patrick Murphy

1st Assistant Chief Chris Portelli • 2nd Assistant Chief Mike Zaleski • 3rd Assistant Chief Vinny Plotino



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As a 61 year member (as of 2018), Chief Neil Finnin regularly attends Department and Hook & Ladder Company meetings and also continues to respond to alarms. Neil will always make himself available for work details, fundraising, and other Department and Company events. He is a constant and positive force within the membership and is one of the most highly regarded and most respected members in the Department's History.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patrick C. Murphy
Chief of Department