2023 Candidate Slate for EMC Vice Chair



John C. Unfred Assistant Chief of Police, Lakewood Police Department

John Unfred serves as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Lakewood Police Department, where he manages all aspects of the daily operations for the department, consisting of 95 Commissioned Officers and 12 civilian staff. He has spent his entire 25-year law enforcement career serving the citizens of Lakewood.

Chief Unfred began his law enforcement career with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in 1998 and was assigned to Lakewood. He later joined the Lakewood Police Department when it was formed in 2004. He has served assignments in patrol, undercover narcotics, community policing and professional standards. He has risen through the ranks and served as Assistant Chief for the last 7 years.

In addition to his police duties, John is one of the Incident Commanders of the Pierce County Type-3 Incident Management Team (IMT) and has deployed to numerous disasters at the local, state, and national level, including the Roy Grain Silo collapse, SR-530 Mudslide, wildfires in Okanogan County, Hurricane Florence, the Amtrak Derailment in DuPont, Covid-19 response, and the 2020 protests.

John is a key member of the Washington Incident Management Team (IMT) Coalition and serves on their Peer Review Committee for IMT credentialing. He has worked closely with the WA Emergency Management Division (EMD) to help develop a statewide qualification process for all-hazards IMT personnel. He is currently the FEMA Region X representative on the board of the All Hazard IMT Association.

John has also served as Deputy Emergency Management Director for Lakewood since 2013, managing all preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities for the city. He serves as the Medium Cities Representative on the Emergency Management Advisory Group (EMAG) and a member of the Emergency Management Council (EMC) with the WA EMD.

John holds an Associates in Technology from Pierce College and a B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from Bellevue (NE) University. He recently received a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate from the

University of Washington. In 2022, he served a six-month Executive Fellowship at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., assigned to their Active Shooter program.

John is a resident and active member of the Lakewood community, and has volunteered for a number of local organizations, including the Clover Park Rotary, Communities in Schools, Boy Scouts of America, and local baseball organizations. He was a founding board member of the Lakewood Officers' Charity. John is the proud dad of four amazing sons.