

Candidate BIO

Walter Jernigan

Oyster Harbor has a special place in my heart—I first experienced this community as a child visiting here, and today, we are incredibly grateful to have been Oyster Harbor homeowners for the past eight years. While our primary residence is in Washington, DC, we view Oyster Harbor as a true second home.

Because we are less than an hour away, I am back and forth constantly, spending time in Annapolis on a consistent basis throughout the week, often for several consecutive days at a time, and staying here throughout the summer and most holidays.

I am running to serve on the OHCA Board simply because I love this neighborhood and want to help preserve it.

Professionally, I transitioned into retirement in 2013 following a 28-year career with the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department (FEMS); however, I remain a proud member in good standing of the International Association of Firefighters, IAFF Local 36.

Throughout my career, I worked across many divisions—including Operations, Fire Prevention, and the Training Academy. I've held the positions of Operations Company Commander, Battalion Aide, and OUC (Office of Unified Communications) Fire Liaison Officer. I also had the privilege of serving on the department's Disciplinary Investigation Board, Trial Boards, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, and served as Neighborhood Services Liaison, coordinating with 10 other city agencies to solve local issues. I capped off my career as the Captain of Recruit Processing managing candidate background investigations.

Following my retirement, I continued my public service as a COVID-19 Community Outreach Specialist and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Coordinator for Prince George's County.

Additionally, since 2016, I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering as a Visitor Information Advocate for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, welcoming guests from all over the world.

While my active field credentials have wrapped up, my decades of experience in community safety, multi-agency teamwork, and fair, consistent rules enforcement remain fully intact. Because I am retired and maintain a consistent, active presence on the peninsula, I have the flexibility to serve.

I look forward to listening, learning, and sharing my vast experience with my neighbors while working behind the scenes to keep Oyster Harbor safe and beautiful.