

Oregon State Firefighters Council  
www.osffc.org

Ron Morgan – District Vice-President  
Phone: (503) 806-2673 Email: dist6@osffc.org



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## **City of Salem challenges Firefighter Mo Stadel's Line of Duty Death**

**Media Note: TV and Phone Interviews, Photos Available for Local News Coverage**

Salem, OR – Firefighter Maurice “Mo” Stadel served the City of Salem for 28 years. In 2019, Firefighter Stadel died in the line of duty from occupation related cancer.

Just a few days after Firefighter Stadel's name was placed on the IAFF Memorial Wall in Colorado Springs, the City of Salem has decided to appeal his court case to the Oregon Supreme Court. Firefighter Stadel was diagnosed with tonsillar cancer in 2018 and fought a long battle until his death in 2019. Unfortunately, the City has opted to fight his widow, Tina, at every step. She prevailed in 2021 through the Oregon Appellate Court. On September 12, 2023, the last day the City could appeal, and days before leaving for Colorado Springs, the City appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court attempting to take away her much-earned benefits from his line of duty death.

Matt Brozovich, Salem Professional Fire Firefighters President, “This is all or nothing for his widow Tina. His estate was rightfully awarded a line of duty death benefit from the Oregon Appellate Court. If she loses that, she loses everything for a job that he loved and worked so hard for. Mo was a stand-up man, father, husband, brother and firefighter. To strip this away from his widow isn't only wrong, it's criminal. If I were to pass, I sure as hell would hope that my Sister and Brother fire fighters would stand up for my spouse, and that is certainly what we are doing in this case. For a city that quotes that “employees are their number one asset,” they need to start acting like it.

Firefighter Stadel's death was considered a line of duty death under Oregon's Cancer Presumption Laws. It ensures that if firefighters contract a list of occupation related cancers, that is reasonably presumed it was due to their work as a firefighter, serving their community. Firefighters contract cancer at rates higher than the general population and cancer rates amongst firefighters are skyrocketing.

On Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, The Salem Firefighters, along with firefighters from across Oregon will show Salem City Council Meeting to let the City of Salem Leadership and City Council, the there is no confidence in them or their abilities to make decisions that support their firefighters and their families.

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