

THE CITY OF
ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA

*invites your interest in the
position of*

FIRE CHIEF

THE COMMUNITY

Home to about 10,032 residents, **St. Pete Beach** is a coastal city in Pinellas County, Florida, famous for its status as a tourist destination. Nearly 28 percent of the total residential homes and condominiums in St. Pete Beach are owned by people claiming primary residence elsewhere, reflecting a high volume of seasonal visitors.

St. Pete Beach was formed from the towns of Pass-A-Grille, Belle Vista, Don CeSar Place, St. Petersburg Beach and unincorporated Pinellas County. At the time of its incorporation in 1957, its name was St. Petersburg Beach. In 1994, the citizens voted to shorten the name to “St. Pete Beach” to lessen the confusion with the City of St. Petersburg, located on the mainland to the east.

St. Pete Beach's downtown is centered around Corey Avenue. This district contains many bars, restaurants and shopping popular with both tourists and locals. The Pass-a-Grille Historic District and the historic Don CeSar beach resort are located at the southern end of the beach.

Tourism is an integral part of St. Pete Beach's economy. The City is within 30 miles of both St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport and Tampa International Airport. A clean, safe public transportation system, the Suncoast Beach Trolley, allows for easy accessibility throughout the area.

In St. Pete Beach alone there are over 3,000 vacation accommodations available to visitors, including major hotel and resort condominiums, as well as motels and smaller, more intimate lodging facilities. People come from all over to stay at the City's world-class resorts and hotels. Sometimes they like it there so much, they never leave!

Whether you're a local resident, you wish to vacation there, or you are considering making St. Pete Beach your permanent home, you can visit the City's website for frequently updated community news and events, including information on city government, local businesses, housing, tourism, public parks and recreation, the community center, public pool, job openings, and more.

Residents are zoned to Pinellas County Schools which include Azalea Elementary School, Madeira Beach Middle School, and Boca Ciega High School.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Including the Fire Chief, the Fire Department operates with 32 personnel including:

- Three (3) District Chiefs
- Six (6) Lieutenants/PM/EMT
- Twelve (12) Fire Fighter/ paramedics
- Nine (9) Fire Fighter/ EMTs and
- Two (2) Administrative staff, Fire Chief and Fire Marshall.

The Fire Department has a Fiscal year 2015 Budget of \$2.3 million and operates from two stations providing Fire and EMS service to the City of St. Pete Beach, and the immediately adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas through an automatic aid agreement. The Department operates one Advance Life Support (ALS) Rescue, one ALS Engine/Squad and one BLS Ladder Truck from the two stations. The Department handles approximately 2,800 calls annually including EMS First Response ALS, fire related incidents, vehicle incidents, etc. The normal schedule for line personnel is 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off.

The City's response district is about 2½ square miles; five (5) miles long by about ½ mile wide. The Community is largely comprised of resort hotels, high rise residential buildings, single family residents and small businesses. As noted earlier, population of the City is just over 10,000 and the median age of the residents is 60 years of age. The City of St. Pete Beach is bordered by the City of South Pasadena, the City of Treasure Island and the City of St. Petersburg.

THE POSITION AND THE CANDIDATE

The Fire Chief reports to and is under general supervision of the City Manager. The City Manager will be looking for the next Fire Chief to be a problem solver with a track record of success and of optimizing resources. The Chief will be a leader who can inspire the employees and take the department to the next level. "We have always done it this way," will not be a phrase the Chief is familiar with nor accepts. He/she will embrace change management, will think outside the box and will be relentless in seeking ways to improve operations while reducing costs and identifying new revenues. Only the best, in terms of both personnel and practices, will be enough. The individual will not be someone who spends his/her day behind a desk but will be someone who arrives unannounced the stations to chat with the crews, hear their ideas and get their input. Building trust with not just staff but also residents will be important. Being humble and willing to admit a mistake will be important to establishing credibility.

The City Manager will consider any combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree and significant, increasingly responsible local government fire suppression/prevention and EMS experience, including at least ten (10) years of management level experience gained in a department of comparable size and complexity. The successful candidate must be a skilled leader and a results oriented manager with excellent interpersonal skills, a strong customer service orientation with unimpeachable integrity. He/she must have firefighter certification in the State of Florida. NIMS and FEMA Disaster Preparedness training will be a plus.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The salary range for the Fire Chief is:

\$71,880 - \$108,725

Depending on qualifications and experience the intended starting salary for the position is expected to be "mid-range" annually.

Employee benefits are competitive, generous and include:

- Paid Medical and Life Insurance with Employer Supplemented Dependent Insurance.
- Paid Accidental Death & Dismemberment.
- Paid Dental Insurance.
- Paid Short Term Disability.
- Retirement Plan and Deferred Compensation Plan.
- Paid Holidays (12).
- Generous Paid Personal Time off.
- And More.

HOW TO APPLY

For additional information on this outstanding opportunity, please contact W. D. Higginbotham, Jr., Senior Vice President, The Mercer Group, Inc. at 727-214-8673, WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com

A letter of interest and resume should be sent electronically by the close of business on May 29, 2015 to:

**W. D. Higginbotham, Jr.
Senior Vice President
The Mercer Group, Inc.
Seminole, FL 33777
Email - WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com**

Resumes are subject to the provisions of Florida Public Records Statutes

The City of St. Pete Beach is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of St. Pete Beach does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, political ideas, or disability in employment or in the provision of services.

M The Mercer Group, Inc.