

On Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 at approx. 0835 hours, Continental Village FD was dispatched to 56 Roa Hook Rd in the Cortlandt Manor area of its district. Upon arrival of 2131 **Chief of the Department, Robert Boddie Jr.**, a size-up was given to Westchester County Fire Dispatch "60 control" and all responding units of heavy fire from the "C" side first floor of a 70' x 40' 3-story Type V Residential Structure. Cont'l Village FD Deputy Chief Craig Stilwell, who was on the scene prior to **Chief Boddie's** arrival reported to **Chief Boddie** that there were unaccounted for persons within the structure.

With a language barrier existing, an adult occupant with burn injuries had exited the structure and made contact with Deputy Chief Stilwell prior to Chief Boddie's arrival, and indicated missing persons were still inside and re-entered to locate them and get objects. **Chief Boddie** immediately requested a 2nd Alarm assignment and indicated he would be conducting a primary search alone and that DC Stilwell would have command momentarily.

While approaching the structure, **Chief Boddie** was offered assistance by Cold Spring FD, Chief Jeffrey Phillips Jr who was passing by the incident. Chiefs Boddie and Phillips facing considerably high heat conditions, virtually no visibility within the structure and without the protection of a hose line or water source began a primary search of the first floor for the unaccounted-for persons.

Approx 5 feet inside the door on the first floor, the "B/C" corner of the structure, a young female and an adult female were located on the floor of the kitchen and were removed by **Chiefs Boddie and Phillips** and turned over to occupants outside and told them to bring them to the vehicle where **Deputy Chief Stilwell** was located. At this point it was updated that two additional persons were unaccounted for and that a "brother and sister" were still missing. Once confirmed that two additional occupants were missing, as two females were located and no male victims, **Chiefs Boddie and Phillips** continued the primary search of the fire floor with no additional parties found within the structure.

Upon exiting the structure, **Chief Boddie** met Peekskill FD Engine 131 crew, who was stretching a 1-3/4" attack line. **Chief Boddie** conveyed fire attack instructions to Engine 131 crew and returned to his Chief's vehicle/Command Post and assumed operational command of the incident.

Though **Chief Robert Boddie Jr.**, submitted his nomination letter with hope to award the responding members of his department with a Unit Citation, we could not let the heroic actions of both Chief Boddie Jr. and Chief Jeffrey Phillips Jr. go unnoticed. Therefore, the Putnam County Volunteer Firemen's Association would like to recognize both

Chief Robert Boddie, Jr. and Chief Jeffrey Phillips, Jr.
as this year's **Firefighters of the Year.**