



News Release

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Justin Pierce selected to lead Charleston County Emergency Management Department

Charleston County Government is proud to announce the selection of Justin Pierce as its next director of Emergency Management. He assumed his role December 2.

Justin has over 20 years of experience in the homeland security and emergency management field and most recently served as Director of Emergency Management for Los Angeles World Airports. In that role, he served Van Nuys General Aviation Airport and LAX, which was named among the world's top ten busiest airports in 2023.

As Director of Emergency Management, Justin helped guide the airport's response to and recovery from COVID-19, led the planning effort for the Super Bowl LVI team arrivals, revamped LAX terminal evacuation and repopulation procedures, modernized its alert and warning capabilities, and initiated a \$70 million renovation of its Emergency Operations Center.

From 2016 to 2019, Justin served as Deputy Chief of the Preparedness Division for the District of Columbia's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, where he led numerous planning efforts and EOC activations in response to emergencies, National Special Security Events, and other planned events including Presidential Inaugurations, State of the Union Addresses, and a Papal Visit.

Additionally, he has deployed to numerous Presidentially declared disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Act.

Justin received a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Tech University and has completed higher education programs at Georgetown University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In July 2024, he graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School Executive Leaders Program 2302.1.

Justin is married to his wife, Marissa, and is the father of two daughters, Kennedy and Madison.

QUOTES:

"Charleston County is proud to welcome Justin Pierce as its new director of Emergency Management. His years of decisive leadership, experience navigating complex emergency scenarios, and proven ability to foster cross-sector collaboration make him the ideal candidate for this critical role. As our community continues to face evolving challenges, we are confident that Justin will enhance our preparedness and resilience, ensuring the safety and security of all who call Charleston County home." –Herbert R. Sass, III, Charleston County Council Chairman

"Justin is a highly qualified and experienced executive leader who is deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of both residents and visitors in Charleston County. He brings decades of experience in collaboration and planning with local, state, and federal public safety agencies. His expertise in emergency management and homeland security matters will undoubtedly enhance our community's resilience, preparedness, and response capabilities as we continue to face increasingly complex hazards." –Eric Watson, Deputy Charleston County Administrator for Public Safety

"I am truly honored to have been chosen to lead the Charleston County Emergency Management Department and its talented team. I would like to extend my gratitude to Charleston County Government for entrusting me with this important role. The work of Charleston County Emergency Management is essential for the County's resilience against flooding, hurricanes, and other disasters. It also plays a vital part in educating and empowering our residents, visitors, and businesses with the information and resources necessary to stay safe. I look forward to embracing the Charleston Way and continuing to strengthen our relationships with the business community, educational institutions, hospitals, places of worship, nonprofits, and other regional and state partners. Together, we will ensure that Charleston County remains a leader in disaster preparedness." –Justin Pierce, Charleston County Director of Emergency Management

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