



Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Joel Navarro, Tempe City Councilmember and Phoenix Fire Department Battalion Chief

Topic: The Opioid Epidemic, Challenges and Solutions - During 2016, more than 65,000 Americans died of a drug overdose, which means that overdoses killed more people in one year than the number of Americans killed in the Vietnam War. Two-thirds of those deaths were attributed to opioids. He will discuss why opioid overuse has been declared a public health epidemic, the challenges first responders face (fire service, law enforcement, emergency personnel, and safety staff) and protection measures to take. He'll detail Tempe's efforts and strategies to tackle opioid addiction and the groundbreaking research being used to deploy prevention resources.

Bio: Joel Navarro has served on the Tempe City Council for more than 10 years. His leadership and strong commitment to public safety, neighborhoods, parks and housing has won him re-election in Tempe. Joel serves on the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors and is a member of NLC's Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) Constituency Group. He is an active member of the NLC Public Safety & Crime Prevention Steering Committee and board member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). He served on the NLC/NAco Opioid Task Force and led state-wide efforts in Arizona to develop an opioid response action plan. Joel is a Phoenix Fire Department Battalion Chief where he is a trained paramedic and directed Arizona's largest emergency medical services division. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising Design from New Mexico State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education from Ottawa University.