

ANNOUNCEMENT

November 18, 2025

The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Works With ADK to Find Next Chief Director of Public Safety

ADK Consulting & Executive Search, a retained recruitment firm known for its expertise in senior executive searches in the aviation industry, announced it has recruited a Chief Director of Public Safety for The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority. Samuel Shaffer will serve as the senior leader of airport safety and security operations, overseeing law enforcement, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and emergency medical services for McGhee Tyson Airport.

Mr. Shaffer brings more than 25 years of law enforcement experience with the Knoxville Police Department. Most recently he held the title of Captain, overseeing Homeland Security, Special Events, Real Time Information Center development, and departmental liaison to McGhee Tyson Airport. For the six years before the Knoxville Police Department, Mr. Shaffer was with the Knoxville Fire Department, serving on an engine company, heavy/technical rescue company and hazardous material team member.



Samuel Shaffer

“For decades, I have aspired to serve in public safety at McGhee Tyson Airport,” said Mr. Shaffer. “I’ve worked diligently to prepare for this opportunity, and I’m truly grateful that it has now come to fruition. I’m honored to join a dedicated team and look forward to contributing to their continued success as the airport grows and evolves.”

Mr. Shaffer holds a bachelor’s degree in aviation administration from Utah Valley University. He is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and a certified Hazardous Materials Technician.

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[McGhee Tyson Airport](#)

About ADK Consulting & Executive Search

Named to Hunt Scanlon’s 2025 Select Guide to America’s Top 250 Executive Search Firms, ADK brings award-winning expertise to every engagement. Founded in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2003, we are a retained consulting and search firm **connecting exceptional leaders with outstanding opportunities**.

- Executive Search: C-Suite to mid-level placements across private and public sectors
- Confidential Search: Targeted outreach to recruit top passive candidates
- Interim Management: Experienced leaders to manage transitions and deliver results
- Management Consulting: Tailored organizational assessments and strategic advice

Our 27-member team serves clients ranging from small private businesses to Fortune 100 companies and public sector organizations—across the U.S., Canada, Turks & Caicos, and beyond. If you’re seeking a visionary, high-impact C-Suite leader, ADK’s strong networks and personalized approach deliver the right fit.

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