In 1919, when Wesley Williams became a New York City firefighter, he joined a force that was 100 percent white. As far as most New Yorkers knew, black men in the FDNY tended horses. Nearly a century later, the FDNY had just 300 black firefighters — under 3 percent of its 11,000-member force — in a city with 2 million African Americans. Unlike other uniformed departments, including the NYPD, the FDNY had not diversified its ranks. This led to a courtroom showdown between Mayor Michael Bloomberg and a determined group of black activist firefighters who fought for racial equality — a story told in Firefight.


She will be joined by three people who played a major role in this story:

**FDNY Captain Paul Washington**, president emeritus of Vulcan Society

**Firefighter Regina Wilson**, president of the Vulcan Society

**Lieutenant Michael Marshall**, FDNY Diversity Advocate

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**Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

**3:40 to 4:55 p.m.**

**Penthouse**

**Brooklyn College Student Center**

**Campus Road and East 27th Street**

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