



Fire Department

Aaron Lipski
Chief

Joshua Parish
Assistant Chief

Russell Rivard
Assistant Chief

Sharon Purifoy-Smoots
Assistant Chief

May 26, 2022

To The Honorable
The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
200 East Wells Street, Room 705
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully nominate Deputy Chief De Wayne Smoots to the rank of Assistant Chief. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Deputy Chief Smoots has 34 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a Firefighter in November 1987, was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in July 2000, to Fire Captain in July 2007, to Battalion Chief in March 2014, and to Deputy Chief in November 2020.

Deputy Chief Smoots holds a Doctorate Degree in Divinity, and two Master's Degrees, one in Divinity, the other in Christian Counseling. He is a certified EMS and fire services instructor; he also holds a number of fire service certifications.

As an individual who values education, he served the department as an EMS Instructor, Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer Train-the-trainer, and Hazardous Materials Technician. He shared his passion for the fire service by being instrumental in forming the Fire Cadet Program. He has served 18 years as the President of the Milwaukee Brotherhood of Firefighters, an organization which brings betterment to department members, leads organizational change through educating in the acceptance of and embracing of diversity, and works in charity with the community to foster transformational opportunities to the youth in our society.

He embodies a leadership style which enables him to meet people where they are, in order to bring them to where we need them to be. He is an open-minded listener who finds ways to get buy-in from our members, while ever maintaining the mission at hand. Deputy Chief Smoots has professionally dedicated his career to bridging the MFD to the community it serves. He places a premium on the largest asset of the Milwaukee Fire Department, its members, being a coach, mentor, and a positive role model. I recommend Deputy Chief De Wayne Smoots for promotion to the position of Assistant Chief.

Sincerely,

AARON LIPSKI
Chief

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