



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 Battalion Chief Matthew W. Williamson to the rank of Deputy Chief. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Battalion Chief Williamson has 22 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a Firefighter in March, 2000, was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in May, 2008, to Fire Captain in April, 2011, and to Battalion Chief in March 2018.

Battalion Chief Williamson has been a dedicated and involved member of the department throughout his career. He has been a member of the Dive Rescue Team, the Heavy Urban Rescue Team, Director of the Fire Investigation Unit, and an adjunct and lead instructor for the Bureau of EMS/Training/Education. Further, he currently provides his expertise by participating as a state exam proctor for members attaining certifications.

He has earned a plethora of formal degrees and certifications throughout his career, including a Master's Degree in Emergency and Disaster Management, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science Management, two Associate's Degrees (Fire Science/Political Science), as well as the following State Emergency Services Certifications: Firefighter 1 and 2, Fire Instructor 1 and 2, and Fire Officer 1, 2 and 3. Battalion Chief Williamson is also fully compliant with all appropriate level NIMS courses. This partial list clearly reflects his dedication to enhancing his skills through continuously seeking out opportunities to further his education and remain current.

Battalion Chief Williamson has spent his adult life honing his leadership skills. He began this by enlisting in the U.S. Navy out of high school where he was assigned to a forward-deployed cruiser, the USS Lake Erie. Battalion Chief Williamson continued to serve both his community and country for a total of 15 years and earned a commission as a Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. He

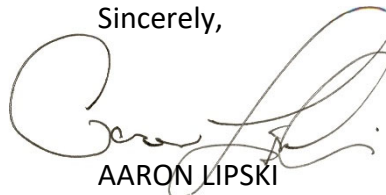
has progressed through the ranks of his career with the Milwaukee Fire Department, always carrying himself with the highest level of professionalism. As an officer, he has been strategically, tactically, and administratively proficient and accountable. He holds his colleagues and subordinates to the high standard that is reflective in the department's code of conduct. He is a compassionate leader who remains empathetic to the diverse needs and challenges of department members. Battalion Chief Williamson continuously sets, and lives up to, a high standard of excellence in his daily endeavors.

During his tenure as a Battalion Chief, Matthew Williamson has also played an integral role in his community. For the past four years he has been a coach and mentor to the young men and women of the Sabercats Youth Wrestling Club and an assistant coach for little league. These positions help the young athletes become more proficient in their sport, and also provides life lessons for growing hearts and minds.

As a member of the Chief Officer's Association, Battalion Chief Williamson has chaired two committees. He was on the Good and Welfare Committee where he was responsible for facilitating activities associated with funerals and retirements of sworn members both past and present. He also chaired the 9/11 Committee which organized, set up, and conducted the annual remembrance of the events that transpired on that date.

I recommend Battalion Chief Matthew W. Williamson for promotion to position of Deputy Chief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Lipski', written in a cursive style.

AARON LIPSKI
Chief

AL/cf
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