



Fire Department

Aaron Lipski
Chief

Joshua Parish
Assistant Chief

David Hensley
Assistant Chief

Schuyler Belott
Assistant Chief

December 23, 2024

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

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully nominate Fire Captain Jeffrey J. Collum to the rank of Battalion Chief. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Fire Captain Collum has nearly 21 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a Firefighter in March, 2004, became a firefighter paramedic in May 2005 until December of 2009, was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in February 2014, to Fire Captain in January 2022, and to Battalion Chief in January 2024. He was reverted to Captain in September 2024 due to losing the temporary RNC Battalion Chief funded positions. He can now be re-promoted to Battalion Chief due to the retirement of a Battalion Chief.

He has strong ties to the City of Milwaukee, residing here for the past 24 years, as well as earning a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations from UW-Milwaukee in 2002.

Fire Captain Collum has been involved in firefighting since 1990, starting his career as a volunteer firefighter with the East Troy Volunteer Fire Department, where he advanced to the position of First Assistant Chief in 1993. His responsibilities as Assistant Chief included fleet maintenance, administering department policies, overseeing subordinate staff, tactical planning, performance evaluations, as well as updating department policies and procedures.

Within the Milwaukee Fire Department, he spent his first 10 years as a firefighter, establishing a strong base of skills prior to promoting to lieutenant. He spent six years in the field as a lieutenant and then spent two years as the Lead instructor at the MFD Training Academy. While at the Training Academy, he taught two fire recruit classes and conducted over 2,400 hours of training. He has assisted with training firefighters from Menomonee Falls, West Allis, North Shore, and Wauwatosa, and has worked in conjunction with our suburban shared

services partners to conduct a high-rise training for all of Milwaukee County, including 1,400 firefighters. Further, he has helped City of Milwaukee inspectors with a live burn to test products to prevent the spread of fire in residential buildings.

His dedication is confirmed by his volunteering to support our fire department over and over, throughout the years. As a captain at Engine 37, he was responsible for overseeing the move of North Shore Ladder 82 into MFD Firehouse 37. The temporary assignment was to accommodate the construction of a new firehouse for the North Shore Fire Department. Combining both fire departments under one roof was a huge success that required communication, compromise, and determination. He has also assisted the Junior Fire Institute, Milwaukee Historical Society, Brew City Fools, MFD Awards Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and the Training Committee.

Fire Captain Collum has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and commitment to the Milwaukee Fire Department as well as to the City of Milwaukee. He has excellent interpersonal skills, consistently building and maintaining positive relationships with his colleagues. He is a team player and a strong leader that is able to inspire and motivate the people he's been tasked with leading. His positive attitude, strong communication skills, and extensive experience will prove to be an asset to the Milwaukee Fire Department and the City of Milwaukee.

I recommend Fire Captain Jeffrey J. Collum for promotion to the position of Battalion Chief.

Sincerely,



AARON LIPSKI
Chief