

Mark Rohlfig



June 28, 2022

Mayor Cavalier Johnson
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee WI, 53202

Dear Mayor Cavalier Johnson:

It is my honor and a pleasure to write a letter of reference for Gerard Washington for a position on Milwaukee's Fire and Police Commission. I was fortunate to work with Gerard for 10 years during my tenure as the Chief of the Milwaukee Fire Department. Gerard worked as my Administrative Assistant Chief. Gerard was my most trusted colleague and a good friend.

Chief Washington is a very respected member of the Milwaukee Fire Department. He was a leader on the Milwaukee Fire Department throughout his career and was always sought out for his advice, counsel, and assistance. He is a hard worker and an excellent administrator; he is an innovator and true public servant. His success as an Assistant Chief on the Milwaukee Fire Department was a result of his ability to work with and collaborate with his peers across the city. His success in his current position as the Fire Chief of the Menomonee Falls Fire Department is a direct reflection of his many skills and talents as a leader and administrator.

Chief Washington has a strong work ethic, impeccable integrity, is a progressive thinker and has a very approachable leadership style. He used these skills to make a lasting imprint on the Milwaukee Fire Department and moved the department forward in many areas. Two areas that provide a testimony to his exceptional legacy include his work to diversify the department and to create a Firefighter Code of Conduct. He led the first successful efforts to diversify the department as the administrator of the reinstated Fire Cadet program and as the author and manager of the revamped Milwaukee Fire Department cadet and firefighter recruiting programs. It is through Chief Washington's tireless efforts that the Milwaukee Fire Department is successfully beginning to diversify its ranks. Chief Washington in collaboration with the Fire & Police Commission and City Legal was able to re-write and update most of our discipline matrixes and most importantly the Milwaukee Fire Department Code of Conduct and the Milwaukee Fire Department Rule Book. These new documents clarified the behavioral expectations for all Milwaukee firefighters and (when necessary) made progressive discipline more uniform and appropriate.

Gerard would be an excellent Fire & Police Commissioner. His extensive knowledge of the Fire Service, his devotion to the City of Milwaukee and his administrative talents would make him a great asset on the Commission. I can't say enough about what a talented, intelligent, and thoughtful person Gerard Washington is and what a great choice he would be to serve on the Milwaukee Fire & Police Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Rohlving". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mark Rohlving