



Fire Department

Aaron Lipski
Acting Chief

David Votsis
Assistant Chief
Joshua Parish
Assistant Chief
Andrew Timm
Acting Assistant Chief

April 8, 2021

To The Honorable
The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
200 East Wells Street, Room 706
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully nominate Acting Deputy Chief Erich J. Roden to the rank of Deputy Chief. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Acting Deputy Chief Roden has 20.5 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a firefighter in August of 2000, was promoted to fire lieutenant in July of 2006, to fire captain in August of 2009, and to Battalion Chief in April 2012. He has been "Acting" Deputy Chief of the MFD Training Academy to temporarily fill a vacancy since November of last year.

Acting Deputy Chief Roden has fostered an interdependent management philosophy throughout his tenure as a lieutenant and captain. This is demonstrated through his practice of ensuring his chief officers, fire officers, firefighters and heavy equipment operators understand their respective positions and roles, and how each relies upon the other so that the respective fire companies are able to conduct themselves professionally, efficiently, and proactively when operating at emergencies, and when dealing with the public. I am confident that Acting Deputy Chief Roden will further strive to incorporate this management philosophy into every position to which he is assigned.

Below is a list of some of his specific accomplishments:

- M.S. Degree in Training and Development, University of Wisconsin – Stout
- Operated at two major national incidents in a command function at the MillerCoors (Incident Commander) and Sikh Temple Active Shooter incidents
- Committee member and project manager for the 2018-2021 MFD Strategic Plan and Implementation
- Assists DNS and DPW with plan reviews of City of Milwaukee building projects as MFD representative and subject matter expert (SME); Most notably, as a fire service (SME) for the Ascent project, the world's largest mass timber high-rise building

- Project manager for two major data projects in conjunction with the University of Chicago and International Association of Firefighters. Chief Roden also serves as a Technical Committee Member for the National Fire Protection Association's National Fire Data System Project
- Advisory Board member of the Underwriters Laboratories Firefighter Safety Research Institute
- Former Editor-in-Chief of FireRescue Magazine, a leading fire service trade magazine
- Keynote Speaker at the Fire Department Instructor's Conference, the largest firefighting trade conference in the country
- Member of numerous MFD boards, committees, and other projects including: Shared Services Operations Subcommittee (Training), MFD Close-Call Subcommittee, MFD Standard Operating Guidelines Committee, the Milwaukee County High-rise Operations Committee, and the Survive Alive House Board

Acting Deputy Chief Roden has built his education and experience around the viewpoint of being able to quickly integrate and adapt to any position or function in the Milwaukee Fire Department. This is evident throughout his formal education and interaction with the fire service at both the local and national levels, offering him the unique ability to understand current and future challenges to all urban fire departments.

Acting Deputy Chief Roden is a serious-minded professional who demonstrates a positive outlook, and a willingness to improve and enhance the Milwaukee Fire Department, and the City of Milwaukee. I recommend Acting Deputy Chief Erich J. Roden for promotion to position of Deputy Chief.

Sincerely,



AARON LIPSKI
Acting Chief