



Fire Department

**Aaron Lipski**  
Acting Chief

**David Votsis**  
Assistant Chief

**Joshua Parish**  
Assistant Chief

**Andrew Timm**  
Acting Assistant Chief

April 29, 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 Fire Captain James H. Ziech to the rank of Battalion Chief. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Fire Captain Ziech has 18 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a Firefighter in April 2003, was promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in July 2007, to Fire Lieutenant in February 2014, and to Fire Captain in March 2020.

With an outstanding regard for the value of education, he graduated from the University of Oshkosh in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, Dual Certification in Special Education, and graduated from Cardinal Stritch University in 2001 with a Master of Science in Educational Leadership, Administration. He has also completed all department Professional Development Program (PDP) coursework for the rank of Battalion Chief.

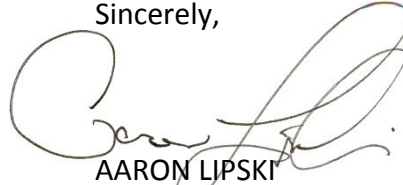
Fire Captain Ziech has sought ways to lead and share his knowledge with others by actively participating in committees and taking on various leadership roles within the department. He was selected as a Subject Matter Expert to assist with the new Computer Aided Dispatch System, was chosen to represent the department on the Applicant Review Committee, and participated in the Underwriters Laboratory Study of Residential Attic Fire Mitigation Tactics and Exterior Fire Spread Hazards on Firefighter Safety.

He has served the community at large by mentoring children through athletics and being an innovative teacher of children with emotional disabilities. At the fire service level, his community service has included fundraising for **Ignite the Spirit**, the **Junior Fire Institute**, the **Wisconsin Burn Camp**, and the **Firefighter Cancer Support Network**. Additionally, he has been an active member of the MFD Honor Guard for the last ten years, paying honor to others who have sacrificed. His actions reflect his belief in serving others.

Fire Captain Ziech is extremely knowledgeable in department policies and procedures, and believes in continuous training for himself, as well as his personnel, making him an excellent candidate for Battalion Chief. He prides himself in his ability to lead, his ability to remain unbiased and fair, as well as his ability to adapt to different situations with confidence and composure.

I recommend Fire Captain James H. Ziech for promotion to the position of Battalion Chief.

Sincerely,



AARON LIPSKI  
Acting Chief

AL/cf  
F&P\Ziech Support – BC 05/2021