



Fire Department

**Aaron Lipski**  
Chief

**Joshua Parish**  
Assistant Chief  
**Sharon Purifoy-Smoots**  
Assistant Chief  
**De Wayne Smoots**  
Assistant Chief

September 12, 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 Fire Lieutenant Philip J. Cockroft to the rank of Recruitment Director. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Fire Lieutenant Cockroft has 24 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a Fire Cadet in September 1998, entered the Firefighter Recruit Class in February 1999, was promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in April 2006, and to Fire Lieutenant in June 2020.

Since joining the MFD Fire Lieutenant Cockroft has earned an Associate's Degree in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University, and Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design Marketing from Herzing University. In addition, he has completed the six-year Executive Development Institute CEU Program through the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters (IABPFF) for Fire Service Management at Dillard University and Clark Atlanta University. Currently he plans on enrolling at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to obtain his Master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

Fire Lieutenant Cockroft is not only a leader within the department, he is also a leader in the community. As a Heavy Equipment Operator in the field, he consistently took the lead when it came to his firehouse's Community Risk Reduction assignments. He created and managed an annual back-to-school event that ran for over 10 years, distributing over a thousand backpacks with school supplies. Off duty, Fire Lieutenant Cockroft has worn a few of different helmets through his non-profit affiliations, volunteering his time both as a mentor and coach for Milwaukee youth in addition to working closely with MPS alumni associations and their grass roots fundraising efforts for scholarships. Fire Lieutenant Cockroft was able to enjoy success in these various roles due to his passion, and organizational and time management skills.

What impresses me the most when it comes to Fire Lieutenant Cockroft is his service to the community on and off duty. He's been instrumental in creating and providing resources for close to two-thirds of our department who came through the fire cadet and fire recruit process. His ability to network with people from different backgrounds has helped increase the diversity of the Milwaukee Fire Department at a historic rate over the past 10 years. His dedication to working to assist others seeking to make a better life for themselves and those around them has not gone unnoticed. In the spring of 2018, he was humbled to be asked to be the commencement speaker for Pulaski High School's senior graduation ceremony.

Fire Lieutenant Cockroft has been a part of the Milwaukee Fire Department recruitment efforts since its inception. Over the past decade he has served in every capacity of the recruiting section. During his time, he has taken it upon himself to formulate a cohesive team dynamic when working with the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission staff members to ensure a positive outcome for all MFD candidates. I have no doubt Fire Lieutenant Cockroft is the right choice for this position not only because of his vast experience, but his dedication to the Milwaukee Fire Department, and the City of Milwaukee.

I recommend Fire Lieutenant Philip J. Cockroft for promotion to the position of Recruitment Director.

Sincerely,



AARON LIPSKI  
Chief

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