



Fire Department

**Mark Rohlfing**  
Chief

**John Schwengel**  
Assistant Chief  
**David Votsis**  
Assistant Chief  
**Aaron Lipski**  
Assistant Chief

March 16, 2020

Ms. Griselda Aldrete  
Executive Director  
Fire and Police Commission  
200 East Wells Street, Room 706  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

**RE: EMERGENCY COVID-19 RESPONSE REQUESTS**

Dear Executive Director Aldrete:

In support of the need for a fluid and proactive response to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, the Milwaukee Fire Department is respectfully requesting additional positions and relevant title and function adjustments to allow us to more effectively provide COVID-19 coverage while maintaining our core non-COVID-19 emergency functions throughout the city. We are requesting:

1. **Emergency approval to hire back six (6) fire dispatchers**, recently retired (within the past 10 years). These would be temporary hires, maintaining their positions until the end of the Democratic National Convention in mid-July.
  - a. NOTE: preliminary financing approval has been received from City Finance Director Dennis Yaccarino.
2. **Emergency creation of a temporary position, temporary firefighter**, into which positions listed below would be promoted from the date of activation (determined in real-time to allow for necessary flexibility and agility in dealing with this changing crisis), through their date of de-activation, then returning to their previous rank and function.
  - a. Fire Cadets x 25 (sophomore class) – already Firefighter 1 and State of Wisconsin Emergency Medical Technician-Basic certified.
  - b. Fire Recruits x 25 (class of 3/23/20) & Fire Recruit Contingents x 6 (class of 3/23/20) – already State of Wisconsin Emergency Medical Technician-Basic certified.

We look forward to discussing this with you and answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
MARK ROHLFING  
Chief

MR/AL/cf

cc: Dennis Yaccarino, Nicole Fleck, & Andrea Knickerbocker

