



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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May 19, 2021

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners  
City of Milwaukee  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Commission Members:

I understand the Fire and Police Commission is moving forward, formally, with an appointment process for a permanent Chief of the Milwaukee Fire Department.

At this early stage, I want to share my perspective on Acting Fire Chief Aaron Lipski.

Chief Lipski has stepped up in many notable ways during his current leadership of the department. He has successfully navigated through the worst months of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing strong support to our public health response; he has taken a solution-oriented approach to challenges such as the withdrawal of a private ambulance provider – a big disruption in our emergency medical system; and, he has successfully tapped into expertise within his department and elsewhere in city government.

One important aspect of Chief Lipski's leadership is his consistent focus on the people we serve. He recognizes the vital role his department plays in Milwaukee's health and safety, and to advance that, his approach has been neither bureaucratic nor inward focused. Instead, it has been an approach that embraced problem solving and service improvement with continuous attention to our community.

It is essential that all our public safety leaders are respectful and inclusive. That includes a commitment to equity and a willingness to reflect on, and remedy, past injustice. I have a high level of confidence in Chief Lipski that he will advance this objective.

I ask that you give full consideration to appointing Aaron Lipski as our permanent fire chief. He has my strong support.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett  
Mayor