



Fire Department

Aaron Lipski
Acting Chief

Joshua Parish
Assistant Chief

Andrew Timm
Assistant Chief

Russell Rivard
Acting Assistant Chief

June 10, 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 Assistant Chief Russell H. Rivard to the rank of Assistant Chief. My reasons for recommending him for promotion are found below.

Acting Assistant Chief Rivard has nearly 28 years of service with the department. He was appointed as a Firefighter in August 1993, was promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in June 2000, to Fire Lieutenant in January 2008, to Fire Captain in February 2014, to Battalion Chief in March 2018, to Deputy Chief in September 2019, and finally to Acting Assistant Chief on May 7, 2021 as approved by your Honorable Board at the May 6, 2021 Fire & Police Commission Meeting.

Leadership is a quality that is truly hard to quantify. Such things as knowledge, empathy, decisiveness, initiative, and creativity are certainly some of the desirable qualities of a leader, and Acting Assistant Chief Rivard has displayed them often. He is recognized throughout our department as a leader. He is consistently professional and organized, and takes on all assignments with enthusiasm and dedication. Regardless of deadlines or other pressure, Acting Assistant Chief Rivard always delivers. His superior organizational skills make him the consummate multi-tasker.

Below is a partial list of accomplishments:

- Currently enrolled at Purdue University Global in the BS in Fire Science and Emergency Management Program
- Earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Fire Technology from the University of Hawaii
- Director of Regional Hazardous Materials Team 2015-2017

- Master Instructor, Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction, International Association of Fire Fighters 2013 – present as well as a State Certified Fire Instructor
- Wisconsin Emergency Management, Hazardous Materials Equipment Committee member
- Appointed by Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Association Hazmat Section to EPCRA WEM advisory Group Type 1 Representative 2016 - present
- Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, earning the following awards: Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, 2 Good Conduct Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 stars, SCUBA Divers Insignia and Rifle Expert Badge (4th Award) 1986-1992
- Successfully completed numerous National Fire Academy and Federal Emergency Management courses

I recommend Acting Assistant Chief Russell H. Rivard for promotion to position of Assistant Chief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Lipski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

AARON LIPSKI
Acting Chief

AL/cf
F&P\Rivard AC Support 0621