



Fire and Police Commission

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MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF NEW FIRE CHIEF

The Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission (FPC) voted unanimously to appoint Mark Rohlfling as the next Fire Chief for the City of Milwaukee.

Chief Rohlfling has 27 years of experience in the fire service. He began his career with the Omaha, Nebraska Fire Department in 1983, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Chief. He was appointed Fire Chief of the Rapid City Fire Department in 2007. He possesses an Associate's Degree in Fire Prevention Technology, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a Master of Science Degree in Executive Fire Leadership. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program.

Chief Rohlfling is the current President of the South Dakota State Fire Chief's Association, is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, was an adjunct instructor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and has been active in community volunteer activities, including United Way, Salvation Army, and youth sports.

Chief Rohlfling has demonstrated his management priorities by building a proactive community-oriented fire department in Rapid City that emphasizes fire prevention and community partnerships. He is well-versed in developing comprehensive long term strategic planning initiatives, starting innovative training programs, and managing specialized operations such as emergency medical services and hazardous materials.

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Michael Tobin, Executive Director of the FPC, stated

“The applicant pool had many well-qualified candidates. We had an exhaustive and transparent selection process. We reviewed qualifications utilizing input received from the community at our public meetings. We also conducted a survey of community stakeholders to help us determine the qualities the public would like to see in the next Fire Chief. The selection process included extensive personal interviews, reference interviews, a management leadership assessment conducted by an experienced independent consultant, and a public interview.”

“Chief Rohlfing is an experienced fire services administrator who also possesses exceptional interpersonal and leadership skills. He is cognizant of the realities of our current budget constraints, and has the expertise and vision necessary to ensure the continued success of the Milwaukee Fire Department.”

Mayor Tom Barrett stated

“I welcome Chief Mark Rohlfing to Milwaukee. Chief Rohlfing has 27 years of fire service experience and is well prepared to lead the dedicated men and women who serve in our great fire department and I look forward to working with him. Welcome to Milwaukee Chief Rohlfing.”

“I want to acknowledge and thank Acting Chief Michael Jones for stepping up and leading the Department. His commitment and service to Milwaukee is much appreciated.”

“The Fire and Police Commission undertook a comprehensive national search for our next Fire Chief. I thank the Commissioners and staff for their thoroughness and professionalism in serving the citizens of Milwaukee.”

Chief Rohlfing will begin the transition to his new position within two weeks when he returns to Milwaukee for several days of briefings and orientation. We anticipate his official start date in early May. His final salary has not been determined. The salary range is \$108,000 to \$146,000.

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