



City of Mishawaka

Office of the Mayor

David A. Wood, Mayor

May 19, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MAYOR ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW FIRE CHIEF BRYON WOODWARD

Mayor Dave Wood announced today his appointment of Bryon Woodward as Fire Chief of the Mishawaka Fire Department. Woodward will replace Chief Dale Freeman who will be retiring on June 13, 2016 after a 36-year career with the Mishawaka Fire Department including the last 19 years as Fire Chief. Freeman has held the Fire Chief post since he was appointed on May 12, 1997.

The position of Fire Chief is the executive head of the fire department with the power and authority to organize, manage and control all activities and branches of the department. The Fire Chief acts under the direction of the Mayor and the administrative jurisdiction of the Board of Public Works and Safety and makes decisions for, and directs all activities of the City fire stations and all employees of the department including firefighters, paramedics, office staff and inspectors.

Woodward is a 20-year veteran of the Mishawaka Fire Department, joining the department on October 17, 1995. During his tenure with the Mishawaka Fire Department he was promoted to the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and has been serving as Battalion Chief since 2013. When the Mishawaka Fire Department made the transition from two shifts to three at the beginning of 2013, Woodward became the Battalion Chief in charge of the newly created 3rd shift and has been very successful in building a highly effective team. Woodward is a State of Indiana Instructor II/III, Emergency Medical Technician – B, Fire Officer II along with many other certifications. He is a graduate of Mishawaka High School, holds an A.A.S. in Fire Science from Ivy Tech and is currently finishing a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University. He is also a past winner of the Mishawaka Firefighter of the Year Award in 2003.

Mayor Wood commented: "I have great confidence in Bryon Woodward. His professional experience, leadership ability, steady temperament and infectious optimism for the future of emergency medical service and fire service in Mishawaka will serve our citizens and the department very well. I would also like to thank current Fire Chief, Dale Freeman, and his leadership team for guiding the department through its growth and leaving the department better off than they found it. The mark and legacy of any true leader is to develop talent and nurture future leaders to follow you". Chief Dale Freeman adds, "If you are not planning for your successor from the day you are appointed Chief, you are doing a disservice to both your department and your community".

Bryon's official date of appointment as Chief of the Mishawaka Fire Department will be June 14, 2016.

*Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America," By delivering exceptional services,
promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.*

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