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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Westbrook, ME – The Fire Chief is a critical role for our City and, following the announcement of Chief Andrew Turcotte's departure last fall, we filled many of the leadership roles within the Fire & Rescue Department on an interim basis under the leadership of Interim Fire Chief Stephen Sloan. We felt this was the best approach while we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and departmental transitions. As we approached spring with relief in some of those areas, we began the recruitment process to fill the Fire Chief position on a permanent basis. We established an interview panel composed of members of our Public Safety Commission, City Council, community members, and the Administration. The interview team moved diligently through the recruitment and interview process to select a new Chief, thus providing stability in department leadership.

I am now pleased to announce that Interim Fire Chief Stephen Sloan has been selected as the City of Westbrook's next Fire Chief. Steve was selected from a diverse field of nearly a dozen applicants, both local and from out-of-state. He was ultimately selected from amongst the three top finalists, and his appointment was the unanimous recommendation of the interview panel. Steve brings to the Fire & Rescue Department a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of fire and rescue operations, along with a keen insight into the challenges faced by our community and the fire and emergency medical services. He has a deep familiarity with an understanding of Westbrook, and his passion to serve our City will carry him through this critical role.

Steve's professional experience includes nearly 20 years of public safety service, having previously served the Scarborough Fire Department for 11 years, reaching the rank of Lieutenant, before joining the Westbrook Fire Department in 2015 as the Assistant Fire Chief. He has served in nearly every role in the Fire and EMS service, including Firefighter, Paramedic, Inspector, Lieutenant, and most recently as the Interim Chief since late last year. Steve completed his undergraduate studies in Paramedicine and is currently enrolled in a degree program for Fire Administration. He has also attended numerous technical and professional training programs, many of which were provided through the National Fire Protection Agency. Steve has gained the full support of his colleagues and is the results-oriented leader that the Westbrook Fire & Rescue Department needs. He assumes command of the 65-member Department of full- and part-time employees. Our City is blessed to have such a dedicated public servant like Chief Sloan.

One of my top priorities as Mayor is to strengthen employee recruitment and retention, and we have been working hard these last two and a half years to develop and grow our employees within the City. Through this initiative we have filled both the Police Chief and Fire Chief positions in our public safety departments. We are committed to open and competitive recruitment processes, and it is noteworthy that these efforts have resulted in the selection of in-house candidates to head each of these critical departments. We are proud of the fact that through this competitive selection process the talent, experience, and leadership skills from among our existing personnel have provided the best candidates for these positions.

The formal swearing-in ceremony for Chief Sloan is tentatively scheduled for June 6th during our next City Council meeting, and we look forward to celebrating this well-deserved promotion with family, friends, and colleagues.