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## Press Release

For Immediate Release

### Assistant Fire Chief Promotion

**Westbrook, ME – May 26, 2022** Following the appointment of Assistant Fire Chief Stephen Sloan to the position of Fire Chief, the Westbrook Fire & Rescue Department began the process of filling the Assistant Fire Chief position. Under the direction of the Fire Chief, the Assistant Fire Chief is responsible for managing, coordinating and supervising the operations of the Fire & Rescue Department. This position provides complex administrative support to both the Fire Chief and other City Department Heads.

At the completion of the process, Captain Gary Wagner, who previously served as the Interim Assistant Fire Chief has been selected to fulfill the role as Assistant Fire Chief for the Westbrook Fire & Rescue Department. Chief Wagner's appointment was the unanimous recommendation of the interview panel.

Gary began his career in the fire service in 1995 serving as a paramedic with Wells EMS and the Sanford Fire Department. In 1997, he was hired as per diem paramedic supervisor with Westbrook Rescue. Four years later, in 2001, when Westbrook Rescue combined with the Westbrook Fire Department, Gary was hired as the first Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedic serving in the newly established, dual role department. Throughout his career, Gary served in many different roles within the department, including assignments to both ambulances and fire apparatus.

On January 28, 2013, Gary was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, serving at Pride's Corner Station as the officer in charge of Engine Company 3 and Rescue Company 1 where he served for five years. On December 4, 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain and served as the Shift Commander of Shift 1, assigned to Engine Company 4, the position he held until his assignment to Interim Assistant Chief.

During his career, Assistant Fire Chief Wagner has maintained a constant thirst for training and advancement. He has attended many trainings and spearheaded many initiatives within the department and the community; most recently assuming the role of Captain in charge of the department's COVID-19 testing and vaccination site. Gary is an active member of the department's Peer Support Team which provides emotional support to public safety officials both in Westbrook and throughout the state.

The formal swearing-in ceremony for Assistant Fire Chief Wagner is tentatively scheduled for June 6, 2022, during the next Westbrook City Council meeting.

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