



Office of the Fire Chief Ken Gilliam  
**La Crosse Fire Department**

726 5<sup>th</sup> Ave South, La Crosse, WI 54601 ■ (608) 789-7260 Fax (608) 789-7270  
<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org> [gilliamk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:gilliamk@cityoflacrosse.org)



*Serving La Crosse and Southwestern Wisconsin with Quality Emergency Services Since 1896*

**Police & Fire Commission**  
**Fire Department Monthly Report**  
**February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**In the News:**

- 2/8** Fire officials said nobody was home when the La Crosse Fire Department responded to a house fire shortly after 7:00 a.m. on Friday. The fire was on the 1900 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Street South. Crews were able to knock down the fire fairly quickly and without injury according to officials, but stayed at the scene until about 9:30 a.m. to deal with hot spots. Investigators determined that the cause of the fire was electrical.
- 2/14** The La Crosse Fire Department responded to a fire on Division Street, La Crosse early Thursday morning. Fire crews were on-scene in less than three minutes to find flames coming from an enclosed front porch. The residents were alerted to the fire by a smoke detector, evacuated safely and called 911 at 2:29 a.m. The fire was contained to the front porch, causing moderate damage. The family was able to stay in the home once the fire was put out. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 2/15** La Crosse Fire Department reminded citizens to keep hydrants clean of snow so they are readily accessible.
- 2/17** Firefighters responded quickly to a call they received at 12:36 p.m. Sunday about an attic fire on the 1400 block of Charles St. on La Crosse's north side. "Our response time was around that two-minute mark, so we were able to arrive on scene real quick," said David Snow, a battalion chief with the La Crosse Fire Department. Snow said there was no visible fire from outside when they arrived, but once inside the building they found an attic fire above a bathroom. He said they were able to open up the ceiling and put out the fire quickly. The fire was small, but several trucks were sent to the scene to make sure it didn't spread any further, according to Snow. Snow said everyone living in the house was able to get out before firefighters arrived, and there were no injuries. The Red Cross is helping them with temporary housing. The La Crosse Police Department, Xcel Energy and Tri State Ambulance also assisted with the response. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 2/17** 17 people are finding shelter elsewhere for the next few days after a fire in an apartment building forces them to evacuate. It happened at 1312 4th Street South. No one was injured however a dog did die as a result of the fire. La Crosse Fire Chief Ken Gilliam said they were called at 4:20 p.m. for the fire, which was visually showing when they arrived. Members of the La Crosse Police Department were already evacuating residents. Quick work by fire crews contained the fire to the first floor apartment and part of the one above it. All the other apartments weren't damaged according to Chief Gilliam. The fire forced power off to the building which is why residents have to find shelter at other locations. Chief Gilliam said the Red Cross was on scene coordinating shelter with those displaced. The city brought in an MTU bus for residents to stay warm in while crews fought the fire and subsequent cleanup.

**2/18** The La Crosse Fire Department has been busy with four fires in the last four days and a total of seven fires in just two weeks.

Firefighters were called to a fire at the apartment units at 2630 7th Street South. The tenant was able to remove a chair that had caught on fire before the fire trucks arrived. There was a minor fire within the living area of the apartment that was quickly extinguished. Very little damage occurred and no one was harmed during the event.

Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday a series of fires also broke out across the city. Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention and Building Safety, Craig Snyder, said that the fires are just an unfortunate coincidence. "None of them are related. They're all, as of this point, all of them have been ruled as accidental. We've had a couple electrical issues, some smoking issues, it's just been an unfortunate streak that we've had."

Snyder also reminds people that overloading electrical outlets and using space heaters can start a fire during the cold weather.

**2/20** Staying warm is on the minds of everyone during the winter, and people may be considering buying a space heater, but before they do, there are some vital safety tips that space heater owners need to know.

La Crosse Fire Department officials said the most significant misuse of space heaters is when people try to heat entire rooms. Local first responders said a space heater should only be used to heat an immediate small space, which means it must be turned off when someone leaves the room and never to be kept on when sleeping because it could tip over and cause a fire.

Another thing people should be aware of is keeping the space heater away from anything that can catch on fire. It's recommended people keep three feet of space clear around the heater.

The fire department wants to get the message out that furniture does not need an open flame to burn, but a consistent heat source, that's too close, can spark a fire.

"They are a safe product when you purchase them, it's how you use them that can be a danger to you and your family," said Lance Tryggstad, Captain of La Crosse Fire Dept.

**2/20** The cause of a house fire on the corner of Fourth St South and Jackson Street is yet to be revealed. According to the City of Lacrosse Fire Department, there were no injuries. Three cats, one dog and a guinea pig were all rescued safely. Firefighters scraped off siding to make sure the fire had not extended. "We made a fairly aggressive attack. We've got most of the city working here right now with additional overtime personnel coming in to staff extra engines," Assistant La Crosse Fire Department Chief Jeff Murphy said while at the scene. Murphy also said that the Red Cross would help any displaced tenants find temporary housing if needed.



**2/22** The La Crosse Fire Department responded to a fire at an apartment building Friday night. Firefighter got the call around 9:45 p.m. for a fire at 918 Denton Street. According to La Crosse Fire Chief Ken Gilliam, firefighters were able to get everyone out of the two-story building safely and put out the fire fairly quickly. The chief previously reported no injuries, but now says two people were transported to area hospitals with non-life threatening injuries. The chief says the fire started on the second floor of the building, although a cause is unknown at this time. He estimated there were around 12 apartment units. Some of the tenants were expected to be displaced for the night. La Crosse Police, Tri-State Ambulance, the Red Cross, and Xcel Energy were all on scene.

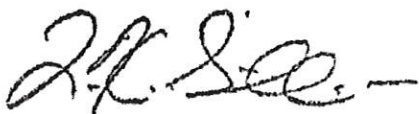
A La Crosse MTU bus also served as a mobile warming shelter. This is at least the 14th fire the La Crosse Fire Department has responded to since the beginning of the year.

**2/22** Firefighters were called to the multi-unit building at 918 Denton around 10 p.m. for a fire in one of the second floor apartments in the back of the building. Fire Chief Ken Gilliam said everyone was safely able to get out of the building. They were still trying to determine how many people were displaced by the fire. Residents are working with the Red Cross regarding temporary housing. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the apartment where it started. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

**Personnel:**

John Bayer, Nick Meinertz, Steven Cash and Adam Market promoted to Captains.  
Chase Mahner and Tyler Petit promoted to Engineers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gilliam', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Fire Chief Ken Gilliam



Office of the Fire Chief Ken Gilliam

### La Crosse Fire Department

726 5<sup>th</sup> Ave South, La Crosse, WI 54601 ■ (608) 789-7260 Fax (608) 789-7276



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## Activity/Performance Summary

### February 2019

Performance Measures	Feb-19	Feb-18	Difference
February Incidents	480	482	0%
February Fire Prevention Activities	85	231	-172%
February Call Processing Time	1:21	1:30	11%
February Turnout Time	1:50	2:10	-18%
February Travel Time	4:50	4:14	24%
February 90th Percentile Total Response Time <sup>1</sup>	7:26	6:54	8%
February Percent Achievement of Response Goal <sup>2</sup>	83%	85%	2%
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Difference</b>
YTD Incidents	1,031	1,057	-3%
YTD Fire Prevention Activities	198	1,124	-468%
YTD Call Processing Time	1:25	1:28	4%
YTD Turnout Time	1:53	2:10	-15%
YTD Travel Time	4:56	4:30	9%
YTD 90th Percentile Total Response Time <sup>1</sup>	7:18	7:07	3%
YTD Percent Achievement of Response Goal <sup>2</sup>	81%	83%	2%

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> 90th percentile response is a measure of quality and reliability; only 10% of the responses will exceed this time. Priority responses are included when calculating response times.

<sup>2</sup> The total response time goal is to respond to 90% of all calls for service within 6:20 or less. This number reflects the percentage of time we achieve this total response time goal.





# La Crosse Fire Department

Chief Ken Gilliam

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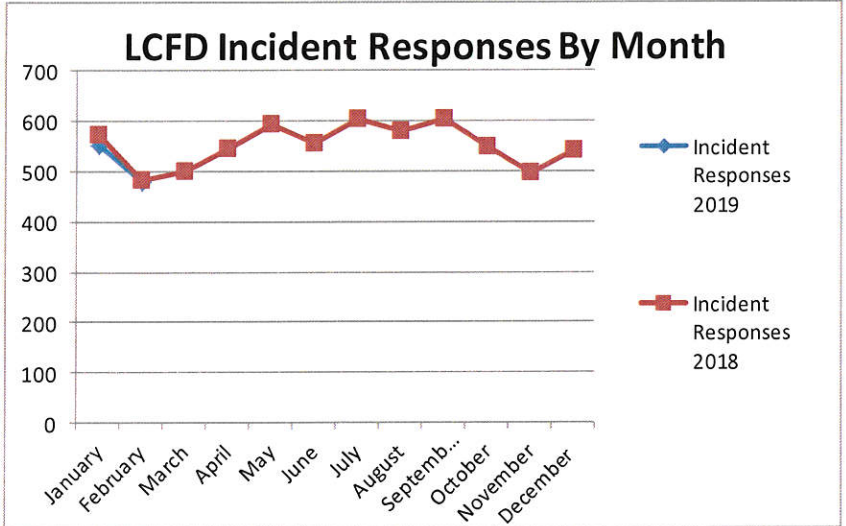
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## LCFD Statistical Analysis

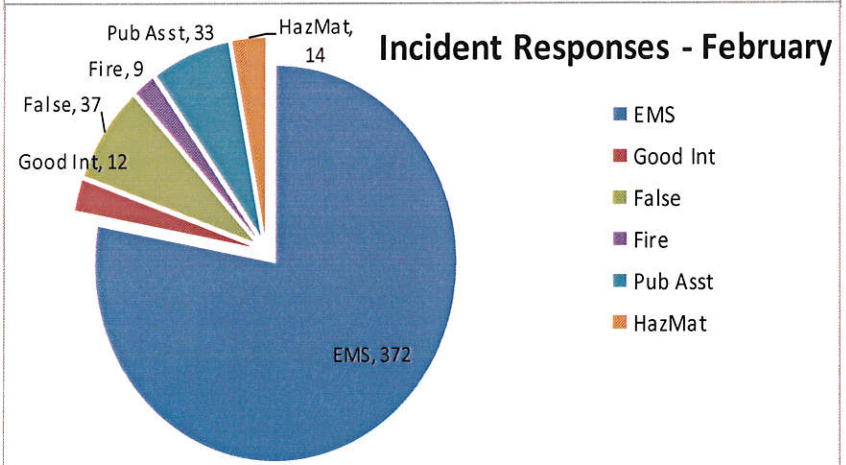
February 2019

LCFD Incident Responses	YTD	YTD
Total	1,031	1,057
Percent Change	-2.52%	



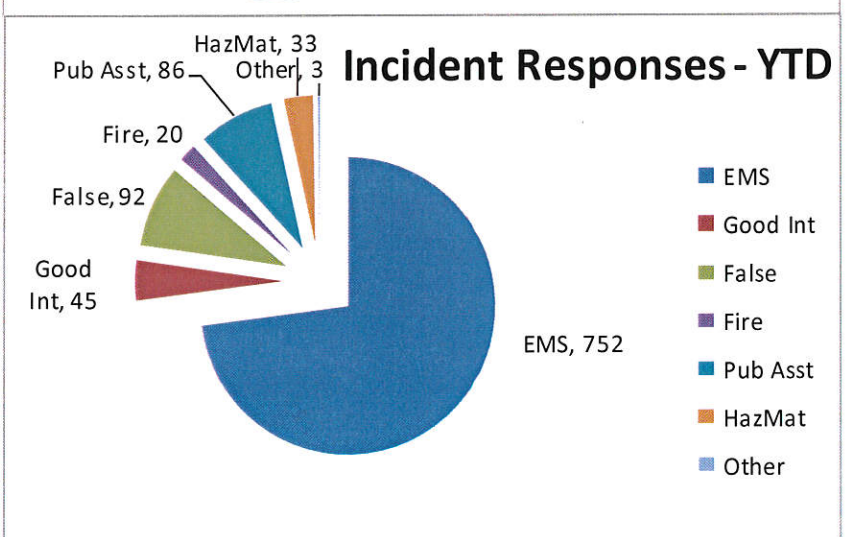
### 2019 February Response By Incident Type

Incident Type	Incident Responses
EMS	372
Good Int	12
False	37
Fire	9
Pub Asst	33
HazMat	14
Other	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>480</b>



### 2019 YTD Response By Incident Type

Incident Type	Incident Responses
EMS	752
Good Int	45
False	92
Fire	20
Pub Asst	86
HazMat	33
Other	3
Rupt/Exp	0
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>1,031</b>





Division of Fire Prevention & Building Safety

La Crosse Fire Department

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Police & Fire Commission
Fire Prevention & Building Safety
February 1st through February 28th

Monthly Stats:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Rows include Inspections (85), Violations (30), Corrections (24), Referrals (0), Complaints (0), Citations (0), Permit Fee Totals (\$30,738.10), and Building OTCs (294).

Fires Investigated:

- List of fire incidents with dates and descriptions: 2/8 1910 31st St S, building fire... 2/15 419 20th St S, building fire... 2/16 1312 4th St S, #4, apartment fire... 2/17 1453 Charles St, building fire... 2/18 2630 7th St S, #C, apartment fire... 2/20 1107 4th ST S, #2, building fire... 2/22 918 Denton St, #11, apartment fire...

Monthly Activities:

Sprinkler System Installation:

2/14 Menards Corporation, 223 Lang Dr

Occupancy Inspections:

- 2/4 Restore Public House, 1810 State St 2/7 Kwik Trip Bakery, 1801 Elm St
2/14 Agropur, 2266 Enterprise Ave

Festival or Tent Inspection:

2/6 La Crosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Snyder
Assistant Chief of Fire
Prevention & Building Safety

Kyle Soden
Captain of
Inspection

Steve Cash
Lieutenant of
Inspection





Office of the Division Chief Frank G. Devine

## La Crosse Fire Department

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### Police & Fire Commission Training Report February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>

#### Training Events

Fire Ground Operations  
EMS  
Extrication  
Technical Rescue  
Water Rescue  
Haz Mat  
Apparatus Operations  
Recruit Academy  
Tactical EMS  
Management / Officers  
Fire Prevention / Public Education

Total Training Hours for February	2,523
Number of LCFD Staff Attending	100
Average Training Hours per Staff	25.23

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank G. Devine".

Frank Devine  
Division Chief of Training  
La Crosse Fire Department

2/23/19

Dear La Crosse Fire Fighters-

Last night there was a fire in the apartment next to my home.

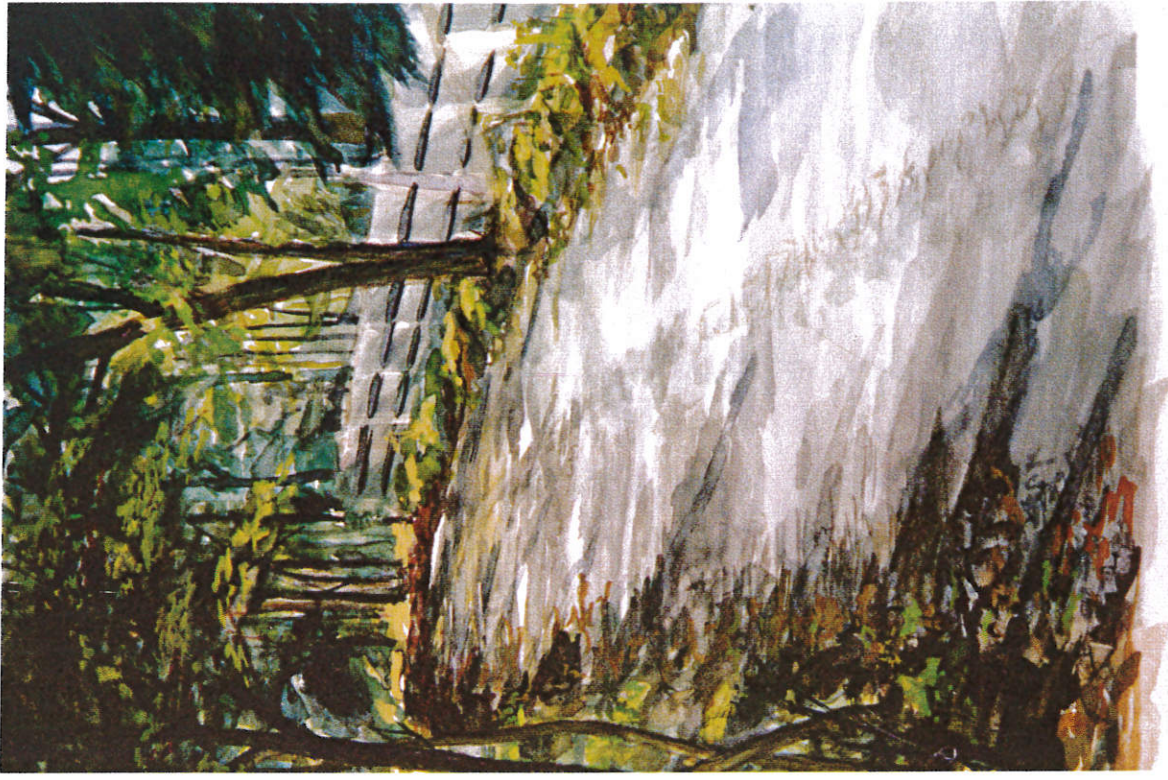
I wanted to thank you all for your work. I've never seen a fire in progress before and you guys were amazing!

One fire fighter even went into one of the apartments and got one of the residents coat and cell phone..

Thank you all so much!

Sincerely,

Amy Burns  
928 Denton St  
La Crosse





**From:** PAMELA STRITTMATER [mailto:ptstritt@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 12:29 PM  
**To:** Cash, Steven  
**Cc:** Snyder, Craig; Gilliam, Ken  
**Subject:** RE: Apartment Association Meeting This Thursday

Thank you so much for your presentation last night. It was very eye opening. Sometimes a picture says 1000 words. We try to explain to our tenants when entering into a lease that no smoking means no smoking and to encourage renters insurance. Is it possible for you to share that picture of the cell phone charger plugged into the e cigarette on the one end and extension cord on the other so I can use it at lease signing?

Also, here is state statute 704.05 that explains right to entry. I know from your reply that you researched it, too.

Rights and duties of landlord and tenant in absence of written agreement to contrary.

(1) When section applicable. So far as applicable, this section governs the rights and duties of the landlord and tenant in the absence of any inconsistent provision in writing signed by both the landlord and the tenant. Except as otherwise provided in this section, this section applies to any tenancy.

(2) Possession of tenant and access by landlord. Until the expiration date specified in the lease, or the termination of a periodic tenancy or tenancy at will, and so long as the tenant is not in default, the tenant has the right to exclusive possession of the premises, except as hereafter provided. The landlord may upon advance notice and at reasonable times inspect the premises, make repairs and show the premises to prospective tenants or purchasers; and if the tenant is absent from the premises and the landlord reasonably believes that entry is necessary to preserve or protect the premises, the landlord may enter without notice and with such force as appears necessary.

Thank you for the form and alterations to it. I will make sure our members get it.

Thank you so much for your time and efforts last night. It's so important to work together for the safety of all.

Pamela Strittmater  
President  
Apartment Association of the La Crosse Area

## **Bartle, Amber**

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**From:** Gilliam, Ken  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 3:33 PM  
**To:** Gilliam, Ken  
**Subject:** FYI - gratitude from resident at 1/1/19 fire

All LCFD...

And specifically to everyone who worked at our 1/1/19 attic fire incident,

Resident (renter) of the house that caught on fire, Willie Mallett, stopped in to Station 4 last week to express his gratitude to the firefighters that fought that fire. As luck would have it, I was visiting Station 4 when Willie stopped in to say "thank you" to the crew of Engine 4 C-Shift. Members of Engine 4 and I had a great conversation with Willie, and I advised him that I would pass his gratitude along to all of you. Willie was displaced by the fire and he is staying with family. While he lost a lot, he was thankful to be alive, and he was very happy with our response, our professionalism, and our actions to protect him and other residents.

I have copied Willie on this email as well, so that he knows that I remembered to pass his message of gratitude along to all of you...

**Thank you all.**

Respects,

-----  
**Fire Chief Ken Gilliam**

**La Crosse Fire Department**

726 5th Avenue South

La Crosse, Wisconsin, 54601

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To: Police and Fire Commission

From: Chief Ken Gilliam

Date: March 11, 2019

Re: John Bayer promotion to Captain

As per Police and Fire Commission Rules and Regulations, I am submitting to you my selection, Lieutenant John Bayer, for the appointed position of Captain.

John is recommended for promotion to Captain based on his strong work ethic and his dedication to the organization. He holds an AAS Degree from WWTC and has been with the organization since 2005. His extensive career experience in the construction trades which provides valuable training and tactical insight to our department and our Urban Search and Rescue team. John has most recently worked to revise our personnel accountability system.

John's leadership style will afford him the opportunity to become an excellent Captain, both tactically at incidents and also with personnel management. I look forward to seeing him develop in this new position.

I respectfully request that the Police and Fire Commission confirm the appointment of John Bayer to Captain.



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To: Police and Fire Commission

From: Chief Ken Gilliam

Date: March 11, 2019

Re: Steven Cash promotion to Captain

As per Police and Fire Commission Rules and Regulations, I am submitting to you my selection, Lieutenant Steven Cash, for the appointed position of Captain.

Steven is recommended for promotion to Captain based on his tenure and contributions to the department. He is entering the fifteenth year of his career and continues to raise the bar regarding fire prevention and fire investigation. He has recently written three grants for the Fire Prevention Bureau and is certified as a Fire Investigation Technician through the International Association of Arson Investigators. He is currently working on obtaining his Certified Fire Investigator. Steven also has an Associate's of Applied Science degree in Fire Protection Technician and is a certified Storage Tank Inspector with the State of Wisconsin.

Steven has also been a member of the HazMat team, Lexipol project and most recently, the accreditation team. While working on multiple projects and teams, Steven has been able to update and develop policies for public fire education and fire investigation. His work in both subjects thus far has been exemplary.

I respectfully request that the Police and Fire Commission confirm the appointment of Steven Cash to Captain.





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To: Police and Fire Commission

From: Chief Ken Gilliam

Date: March 11, 2019

Re: Adam Markert promotion to Captain

As per Police and Fire Commission Rules and Regulations, I am submitting to you my selection, Lieutenant Adam Markert, for the appointed position of Captain.

I am recommending Adam for multiple reasons. Starting with his position as a Computer Trainer, Adam has been able to contribute immensely to our Lexipol implementation as well as provide assistance and give great insight to the operations with the department. He is a member of both the State Radiological Team and State Regional Hazmat Team where he holds a position as a Trainer.

Adam is also a key contributor to the formation of our Health and Wellness program. He has been working on initiatives that will help further benefit members of the department. I believe he will do great things as a Captain as he has more than ten years' experience with the department, an Associate's degree from Fox Valley Technical College and Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh.

I respectfully request that the Police and Fire Commission confirm the appointment of Adam Markert to Captain.



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To: Police and Fire Commission

From: Chief Ken Gilliam

Date: March 11, 2019

Re: Nick Meinertz promotion to Captain

As per Police and Fire Commission Rules and Regulations, I am submitting to you my selection, Lieutenant Nick Meinertz, for the appointed position of Captain.

Nick is recommended for promotion to Captain based on his tenure and various contributions to the department. He has been with the organization since 2007 and long-time member of the State Regional Hazmat Team, State Radiological Team and Water/Dive/Ice Rescue Team. He graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College with an Associate's degree. He has also recently transitioned to management of our department-wide supply inventories.

Nick's contributions also include being a member of the Lexipol implementation and Strategic Planning and other committees. I look forward to seeing him develop in this new position.

I respectfully request that the Police and Fire Commission confirm the appointment of Nick Meinertz to Captain.