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Office of the Mayor

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Mayor Martin Announces New Fire Chief
Appoints retired Assistant Chief to key post

STAMFORD, CT – Mayor David Martin today announced the appointment of retired Assistant Fire Chief Peter Brown as the new Fire Chief for the City of Stamford Fire Department, an organization of both career and volunteer firefighters. Brown will take over for the Director of Public Safety Thaddeus K. Jankowski, who has served in the dual capacity as the Interim Fire Chief since August 2013.

Chief Brown, a lifelong Stamford resident and graduate of Rippowam High School is an accomplished Fire Officer with an advanced level of fire certification. He is a former Assistant Fire Chief in the Stamford Fire and Rescue Department and is a highly respected 40-year veteran of the fire service. He has 34 years of experience as a fire officer and was the Assistant Fire Chief for more than 17 years.

Chief Brown began his firefighting career as a Volunteer Firefighter in the Belltown Volunteer Fire Department. He was appointed to the Stamford Fire Department in 1973 and rose through the ranks as Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief. He has achieved numerous accomplishments and has played a vital role in optimizing the operations of the Fire Department while maintaining a thoughtful and fiscally responsible management style.

“Chief Brown is the ideal candidate to lead the Stamford Fire Department. He is a professional with more than three decades of experience and an impressive track record of performance. Peter understands the challenges confronting the department and has the ability to respectfully work with both volunteer and career firefighters. He has demonstrated a deep dedication to our city throughout his distinguished career and has earned the respect of the community.” Martin said. “I think Peter Brown is exactly the right person to lead the Stamford Fire Department. I am impressed by his knowledge, character and professionalism and I am confident that he will be an excellent Fire Chief,” Martin added.

Thaddeus Jankowski, the Director of Public Safety, Health and welfare stated, “Chief Brown brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Fire Chief position. He served as both a volunteer and career firefighter in the City of Stamford and was a key member of the department’s senior management team. Given his experience and skill set, Chief Brown is well prepared to deal with all issues confronting the fire service. I look forward to working closely with him in providing for the most effective and efficient fire protection for both public and firefighter safety.”

Mayor Martin also announced the appointment of Thaddeus K. Jankowski who will continue to serve as the Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare.

Director Jankowski has played a key role in maintaining Stamford's status as one of the safest cities in the nation and northeast. He is a loyal, proven, result-driven and service-oriented public safety, emergency response, emergency management and homeland security professional with more than twenty five years of experience. He brings real world experience from New York City (NYC) where he was a decorated Fire Chief, the Executive Officer of Safety and Inspection Services Command in the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), one of the busiest emergency response organizations in the United States.

After responding to the events of September 11th he helped the FDNY and City prepare, plan for, respond to, and mitigate acts of terrorism through a joint military, federal, state and municipal Homeland Security effort with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the United States Naval Post Graduate School where he earned his Master's Degree in Homeland Security. He has also completed courses of study at New York University, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Graduate School of Business of Columbia University.

Mayor Martin said, "As the Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Jankowski, has provided strong leadership throughout his tenure and has helped lead Stamford through several major events and natural disasters. I look forward to working with Ted as we share the same commitment to public safety, health and welfare and the same vision for providing the highest quality of services."

Mayor David Martin also announced the continuation of service for Stamford Police Chief Jonathan Fontneau who is a highly decorated 33-year veteran of the Stamford Police Department. Chief Fontneau was named Police Officer of the Year after only two years serving in the department and was a multiple recipient of the United States Justice award for excellence. Under Chief Fontneau's Command, the Stamford Police Department's policing efforts have helped maintain the City of Stamford status as the safest city in New England and the second safest city in the Northeast.

Mayor Martin said, "Chief Fontneau has pursued a proactive and community-based approach to policing that has allowed the department to pinpoint issues before they become chronic crime problems. I applaud him for his leadership of the Stamford Police Department."

Mayor Martin has also announced appointments to both the Police and Fire Commissions and previously announced the appointment of Katherine Emmett to Director of Legal Affairs, Michael Handler to Director of Administration and Michael Pollard to serve as Chief of Staff.

All appointments will be immediately forwarded to the Board of Representatives for consideration and approval. A full CV for Peter Brown is attached.

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