



NEWS RELEASE

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STOCKTON ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW FIRE CHIEF

STOCKTON, Calif. – Interim City Manager Laurie Montes announced today the appointment of Richard Edwards as Stockton’s new Fire Chief. “I’m extremely pleased to announce the promotion of Deputy Chief Edwards to the position of Stockton Fire Chief,” she said. “We conducted a nationwide search and found that the best candidate has been with the department since 2000. We look forward to his leadership and continued service to the City, department and the community.”

Chief Edwards will replace Interim Chief Dave Rudat, who served as Interim Chief in 2011 - 2012 and returned to help lead the department in July of this year, while the City conducted a search to fill the top spot.

“I met Chief Edwards when I was here in 2011 and remember him as someone who diligently worked to develop his knowledge and skills within the fire service and pursue personal and professional development through certification with the fire service and higher education. I feel confident that I am leaving the department in the best possible position with Chief Edwards. Having worked closely with him in his role of Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief II over the last several months, he has demonstrated his fire service expertise, leadership and business acumen, and dedication to continual growth

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and improvement.”

Chief Edwards has served the City and the Stockton Fire Department since December 2000, attaining the rank of every position, including Fire Marshal - Division Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. In addition to being licensed by the State of California as a Paramedic, Fire Officer, Emergency Management Specialist, and Chief Fire Officer, he holds an Associate’s degree in Business Administration from Sierra College in Rocklin, a Bachelor’s in Emergency Management from Waldorf University, Iowa, and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree from Waldorf in Organizational Leadership-Public Administration. In addition to his position with the Stockton Fire Department, he is an adjunct instructor with Sierra College, teaching Fire Technology courses.

“To serve the City of Stockton, Stockton Fire Department and the community is an honor and a privilege,” said Chief Edwards. “I have worked with the members of this department and in service to the city and the surrounding community for nearly 20 years. Without hesitation, I can tell you that I am humbled to lead one of the busiest and certainly one of the best departments in the nation. We are united in our commitment to service and protection of life and property, in Stockton and wherever we go to provide mutual aid. I look forward to this leading and representing the Stockton Fire Department.”

Chief Edwards’ appointment is effective January 1, 2020, a formal badge pinning ceremony will be held after the first of the year.

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