



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 10531)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 8/5/2019

Summary Title: Fire Chief Appointment

Title: Approval of the Appointment of Geoffrey (Geo) Blackshire as Fire Chief

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Human Resources

Recommended Motion

The City Manager recommends that the City Council consider the following motion: To confirm the appointment of Geoffrey (Geo) Blackshire as Fire Chief.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that Council confirm the appointment of Geoffrey (Geo) Blackshire as Fire Chief.

Executive Summary

The Palo Alto Municipal Code requires that the Council confirm the City Manager's appointment of Geoffrey (Geo) Blackshire as Fire Chief.

Background

The City Manager makes the appointment to the position of Fire Chief with the confirmation of City Council (Municipal Code section 2.08.020).

In accordance with the Municipal Code, the main responsibilities of the Fire Chief include the responsibility for the prevention of fires, the protection of life and property against fires, and the removal of fire hazards and preparation of emergency plans; the rendering of emergency services for which the department is equipped; inspection of business and other premises for fire hazards, and to enforce the fire prevention code; to serve as an information resource for the public, other city departments, industry and the media concerning the areas described in this section, to name a few. Additional responsibilities of the Fire Chief can be found in the Municipal Code Section 2.08.180.

Discussion

The City Manager requests confirmation of the appointment of Geoffrey (Geo) Blackshire to the position of Fire Chief. The Fire Chief position became vacant when Eric Nickel relocated to Santa

Barbara in January 2019. Chief Blackshire was selected following a thorough national recruitment process, including out-of-state candidates.

Chief Blackshire has been with the City of Palo Alto Fire Department for over 21 years, most recently serving as Deputy Chief for the past six years. He is a graduate in English from California State University, Dominguez Hills, designated as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) by the Center for Public Safety Excellence, and certified as an Executive Chief Officer by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

Chief Blackshire will be an “at-will” employee, which means he will serve at the pleasure of the City Manager and can be terminated or asked to resign at any time. His annual salary will be \$258,024, which is within the Council-approved salary range for the Fire Chief position, effective August 17, 2019. Chief Blackshire’s benefits and terms of employment are consistent with the City’s Management and Professional Compensation Plan as adopted by Council and there are no special or additional provisions included in this appointment.

Resource Impact

The Fire Chief position is included in the FY 2020 Adopted Budget. Therefore, no budget modifications or additional funding are necessary.

Environmental Review

No Impact