

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Sykes

**SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF FIRE CHIEF
CURTIS JACOBSON**

DATE: November 21, 2017

INFORMATION

After a dedicated 25 and a half years of service to our residents, Fire Chief Curtis Jacobson has informed me of his decision to retire from the City of San Jose, effective December 15, 2017.

I want to acknowledge Curtis' impressive career with our City, which started in 1992 when he joined the Fire Department as a recruit firefighter. After working in every Bureau and Division within the department including Operations, Fire Prevention, Training, Operational Support, and Administration, he was named Fire Chief in 2015.

Through the years, Curtis has established a reputation as an excellent collaborator, relationship builder, and problem-solver. He has served the City well with his stewardship of the Fire Prevention Bureau, effective support and facilitation of Operations, Training, Support Services and multiple interagency projects including the BART construction project, and Super Bowl 50. Curtis' legacy includes development of policies and practices in areas of expedited and over the counter plan reviews, and increased collaboration with labor groups. He has been a strong supporter of community engagement, customer service, and effective use of technology and innovation.

Under Curtis' guidance, the Fire Department celebrated major improvements and achievements: the Fire Prevention Bureau is consistently among the highest rated City services; the Fire Training Center has been accredited by the State of California; the Department's Strategic Plan was approved by Council, service delivery cutbacks have been restored, over 100 firefighters have been hired and other critical staff positions have been filled.

Please join me in congratulating Curtis on his service to the City and pending retirement, as well as wishing him the best of luck with the next chapter of his professional career where he will assume the position of Fire Chief with the City of Fremont.

While a nationwide search is conducted for a new Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief Robert Sapien, Jr. will serve as Acting Fire Chief. Robert joined the Fire Department in 1989, and has held

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leadership positions including Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from San Jose State University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. D. Sykes", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

CITY MANAGER
DAVID SYKES

For questions, please contact Julie Edmonds-Mares, Deputy City Manager and Acting Director, Human Resources, at (408) 535-8155.

