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# CITY OF DANBURY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

MARK D. BOUGHTON  
MAYOR

(203) 797-4511  
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November 24, 2008

Honorable Members of the Common Council  
City of Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Common Council Members:

I am pleased to submit for your confirmation the appointment of Acting Fire Marshal James Johnson to the position of Fire Marshal of the Danbury Fire Department. Jim was appointed to the Danbury Fire Department in November of 1973.

Attached please find Chief Herald's recommendation of this promotion that clearly shows we agree Jim Johnson is a proven team builder and leader that will serve the City of Danbury well in this new role. A stellar work record of over thirty-five years with the Danbury Fire Department demonstrates Jim Johnson's qualifications to serve as Fire Marshal.

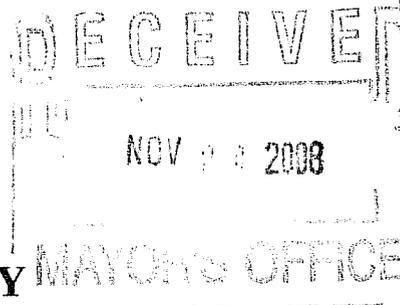
Jim and his wife Susan are Danbury residents and proud parents of their two sons Jim and Stephen and two grandchildren Georgia and Alexis. Jim is active in our community serving as a board member of the Hat City Music Theater and the Danbury Yacht Club.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Boughton  
Mayor

MDB/mm



## CITY OF DANBURY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

**Geoffrey R. Herald**  
Fire Chief

Phone 203-796-1555  
Fax 203-796-1533

November 20, 2008

Office of the Mayor  
City of Danbury  
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810

Dear Mayor Boughton,

On November 20, I conducted interviews with the two candidates for Fire Marshal in the personnel offices of City Hall. I was present for the interviews, along with Acting Personnel Director Debra Salvas and Deputy Fire Chief T.J. Wiedl.

I am pleased to recommend James Johnson to you for promotion to Fire Marshal for the City of Danbury. Jim has the experience, training and ability necessary to lead the Fire Prevention Bureau of the City of Danbury in an exemplary manner. In the process of promotion and interview, Jim has illustrated the many traits requisite for the position.

Deputy Marshal Johnson will mentor and support the other members of the Bureau. He recognizes that each individual has strengths and he will work to use those to best advantage of the Fire Prevention team. He will work to make the members of the team stronger and more cohesive where necessary. Jim fully supports continuing education and will work to assure the Bureau is as well trained and educated as possible.

Jim is a proven team builder and leader. Prior to joining the Fire Prevention Bureau he was a Lieutenant in fire suppression, and was an excellent mentor and supervisor. These skills are vital to the Fire Marshal position. The bureau has three recently promoted Deputies and these new appointees will be guided and lead by Jim to fully reach their potential. He has specifically related that he is ready and willing to listen to others view points. He will sit down to discuss varying opinions and talk over differing ideas. In a Fire Prevention Bureau with six other personalities, these traits are crucial.

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Jim has a strong understanding of the need and value of Fire Prevention. He understands that we need to be prepared to expand our current model of bringing public education to the citizens of Danbury. He cited the current methods and programs in Europe and indicated that there was much we could learn from this type of Fire Prevention Program. This wide vision will certainly benefit our Department. I would point out here that Jim has long been the point or lead for the City's Baby Sitter Program in conjunction with Danbury Hospital. His long and firm guidance of this program bespeaks his solid and continuous commitment to the City and safety.

In addition, for the past several years Jim has fronted the Juvenile Fire Setters intervention for the City. This program has a long and proven track record of successfully interdicting Juvenile Fire Setters and re-directing and assisting troubled youths in our City. Jim recognizes the need for a regional approach to the issue. Recently, the program has been approached by other jurisdictions and under Jim's guidance, we are now assisting these other towns with our teams' expertise.

A solid can do approach to leadership is critical to the Fire Marshal. Deputy Johnson recognizes that as Fire Marshal he is in charge of the Bureau. He intends to lead but "gently" as he says. There is no need for a heavy handed approach. In disagreements with in the Bureau or with the public he believes there is nothing that can not be handled. He will maintain an open door policy and fully support his team and the Department.

Jim has had a stellar work record through out his career of over thirty five years. He has and will continue to lead by example. Jim has a strong work ethic and has the respect of the entire Department. He will support the growth of the other Marshals in his charge and will build a strong cohesive team. As the Chief of the Department, I fully believe Jim will be a Fire Marshal the City will be proud and lucky to have.

Respectfully,



Geoff R. Herald  
Fire Chief