



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 12, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager, Office of the City Manager
 Subject: Appointment of Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution confirming the appointment of Abraham Roman as the Fire Chief to be effective October 17, 2021 at an annual salary of \$268,990.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The salary and benefits for the Fire Chief are included in the Fiscal Year 2021 Fire Department budget. The position is paid 100% from the General Fund (Budget Code: 011-72-741-831-0000-000-422-511130).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Abraham Roman has served as the Interim Fire Chief since April 12, 2021 following the resignation of the previous fire chief. He has a lengthy history with the Berkeley Fire Department, starting with the Department in 1999 as a Firefighter/Paramedic, and promoting through the ranks since that time. Chief Roman has served the City and the Department well as Interim Chief following the resignation of the previous chief and I am confident he will continue to do so in the permanent position.

In accordance with the City Charter, Section 28(b) of Article VII, I am submitting my selection for the Fire Chief to the City Council for confirmation. I have selected Abraham Roman for appointment to the Fire Chief position, to be appointed with an annual salary of \$268,990. I am requesting confirmation of this appointment so that I may formally offer this regular at will benefited department head position to Abraham Roman to be effective October 17, 2021.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Fire Department has a staff of 153, organized into the following divisions:

Administration: The Administration Division directs the department in field operations, budget and fiscal policy, administrative systems and procedures, employee training and development, and labor and management issues.

Fire Prevention: The Fire Prevention Division plans, organizes and implements all Fire Department prevention and inspection programs, including fire and arson investigations, vegetation management, hazard abatement, code enforcement, public fire safety education, plan checking, and evaluation and development of codes and ordinances.

Fire Suppression: Fire Operations provide emergency services in fire suppression, emergency medical and rescue response, emergency service response, hazardous materials response, fire alarm response, and all other emergency calls.

Training and Safety: The Training Division provides all the required department training to comply with local, county, state, and federal mandates.

Office of Emergency Services: The Office of Emergency Services guides City policy and implements disaster preparedness and response programs, outreach and education, and regional collaboration planning.

Emergency Medical Services: The Emergency Medical Services Division provides Advanced Life Support and staff paramedic transport ambulance units.

The Department also staffs the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Interim Chief Roman joined the Berkeley Fire Department in 1999 as a Firefighter Paramedic. He was promoted to Fire Apparatus Operator in 2001, Fire Lieutenant in 2007, Fire Captain in 2009, and then Deputy Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief—Director of Training and Safety in 2012. During his tenure, he has worked in every rank within the Fire Department and has obtained over twenty-five certifications in Fire related trainings. Chief Roman has demonstrated exemplary leadership in managing and directing operations and activities of the Fire Department during very critical times that consisted of responding to the COVID 19 pandemic along with the many Wildfires that have consumed California over the last two years. He has been a leader in the operationalizing measure FF and working with council and staff to map out the five-year plan. He has worked strategically to balance the department's budget while ensuring the equipment and resources are procured for the department. Along with serving as Co-Chair during labor negotiations and securing a two-year contract with the IAFF Local 1227 union. He has been Interim Fire Chief since April 12, 2021. Interim Chief Roman received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Arts from California State Long Beach.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager, City Manager's Office (510) 981-7000

Appointment of Fire Chief

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October 12, 2021

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ABRAHAM ROMAN AS FIRE CHIEF

WHEREAS, Interim Fire Chief Abraham Roman has been a member of the Berkeley Fire Department since September of 1999; and

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Roman has been serving as the Interim Chief of the Berkeley Fire Department from April 12, 2021 to present; and

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Abraham served as the Deputy Fire Chief from February 2018 to April 2021, and prior to that as Assistant Fire Chief-Director of Training and Safety, Fire Captain overseeing the Office of Emergency Services, Fire Lieutenant, including over Special Operations, Fire Apparatus Operator, and a Firefighter/Paramedic; and

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Roman received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Studies from California State University, Long Beach; and

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Roman joined the Berkeley Fire Department in 1999 as a Firefighter Paramedic. He was promoted to Fire Apparatus Operator in 2001, Fire Lieutenant in 2007, Fire Captain in 2009, and then Deputy Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief— Director of Training and Safety in 2012. During his tenure, he has worked in every rank within the Fire Department and has obtained over twenty-five certifications in Fire related trainings. Chief Roman has demonstrated exemplary leadership in managing and directing operations and activities of the Fire Department during very critical times that consisted of responding to the COVID 19 pandemic along with the many Wildfires that have consumed California over the last two years. He has been a leader in the operationalizing measure FF and working with council and staff to map out the five-year plan. He has worked strategically to balance the department's budget while ensuring the equipment and resources are procured for the department. Along with serving as Co-Chair during labor negotiations and securing a two-year contract with the IAFF Local 1227 union. He has been Interim Fire Chief since April 12, 2021. Interim Chief Roman received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Arts from California State Long Beach.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby confirms the City Manager's appointment of Abraham Roman as the Fire Chief with an annual salary of \$268,990 (Budget Code: 011-72-741-831-0000-000-422-511130); on the same terms and conditions as other regular at will employees effective October 17, 2021.