



Ray O'Connell, Interim Mayor

City of Allentown

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To: The Honorable Roger MacLean, City Council President
And Members of City Council

RO'C

From: Interim Mayor Ray O'Connell

Re: Nomination of Interim Fire Chief James Wehr

Date: October 28, 2019

It is with great enthusiasm that I am submitting the name of James Wehr to become the city's Fire Chief.

James Wehr joined the Fire Department in 1994 after having served in the U. S. Air Force. He was promoted to Fire Specialist in 2005, later promoted to Lieutenant in 2006 and was promoted to Captain in 2010. Wehr was promoted to Battalion Chief in 2012. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University.

Chief Wehr is in his 26th year with the department. In February 2016 he was named deputy chief of the department and was recognized as Firefighter of the Year in 2009.

When he was honored as Firefighter of the Year, Chief Wehr served in the Central Fire Station office. He was cited for his professional manner, work ethic and flawless and timely handling of administrative duties. He had assumed command of the department's dive team. He was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance in fund raising through extracurricular activities.

Chief Wehr earned the Alfred W. Fischl Firefighter Service Award in 2014. The award is presented to an individual who has served the department for at least 20 years and has exemplified himself with consistent and dedicated work habits during that period.

I am honored to submit his name for this position.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding Chief Wehr or his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to a date for city council to consider his confirmation.

James Wehr

Interim Fire Chief

4670 Redwood Lane,
Nazareth PA

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Awards

Fire Fighter of the Year
Alfred Fischl Service Award
Commendation for Valor
Two Commendations for Bravery
Three Certificates of Merit Awards
Commendation from Allentown Police Department
Unit Citations
Certificates of Appreciation

EDUCATION

Columbia Southern University

Sep 2015 – Present - working on BS in
Fire Science

Lehigh County Community College

Sept. 1992 – Jun. 1995

Northampton County Community College

Sept. 1995 – Jun. 1999

NCO Leadership School (USAF)

Jun. 1992 – Jul. 1992

Pre-military Education (USAF)

Mar. 1990 – Apr. 1990

Law Enforcement Academy (USAF)

Apr. 1988 – Jun. 1988

Basic Training (USAF)

Mar. 1988 – Apr. 1988

L.E. Dieruff High School

Sept. 1983 – Jun. 1987

Positions Held

Deputy Chief of Fire Administration

Aug 2016-Aug 2018

Battalion Chief, 4th Platoon

Aug 2012-Aug 2016

Captain of Suppression, Engine 4, 4th Platoon

Jun 2010-Aug 2012

AFD/URT Commander

Jul 2009-2016

Lieutenant, Engine 9 (2nd platoon)

Jul 2006-Jun 2010

Specialist, Truck 2 (2nd platoon)

Jun 2005-Jul 2006

Fireman, Engine 4 (4th platoon)

Sep 2001-Jun 2005

Driver, Truck 1 (4th platoon)

Sep 1997-Sep 2001

Reserve Position (1st, 3rd & 4th platoons)

Nov 1994-Sep 1997

Training Division

Aug 1994-Nov 1994

Certifications

First Responder Certified

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certified

Automatic External Defibrillation Certified

Fire Officer 1 Certified

Firefighter 1 Certified

Fire Service Instructor I Certified

Fire Service Instructor II Certified

Education Methodology Level I Instructor Certified

Master Diver Certified

Open Water Diver Certified

Advanced Open Water Diver Certified

Rescue Diver Certified

PADI Search and Rescue

Rapid Deployment Search and Rescue Diver Certified

Blackwater Search and Rescue Diver Certified

Ice Diving Rescue Technician Certified

PADI Ice Diving Technician Certified

Surface Ice Rescue Technician Certified

PSD Drysuit Diving Certified

PADI Drysuit Diving Certified

PADI Boat Diver

AGA Mask Diving Certified

Interspiro/Ocean Technology Systems Divator MK-II Service Technician Certified

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Certified

Successfully Completed all fire department offered courses