



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 9, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Aram Kouyoumdjian, Director of Human Resources

Subject: Appointment of the Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution confirming the appointment of David Sprague-Livingston as the Fire Chief to be effective May 14, 2023, at an annual base salary of \$268,320.00.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The salary and benefits for the Fire Chief are included in the FY 2023-2024 departmental 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

David Sprague-Livingston has served the City of Berkeley community as a first responder for over 21 years. Interim Chief Sprague began as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Berkeley Fire Department in October 2001 and was successively promoted to Paramedic Supervisor, Apparatus Operator, Special Operations Lieutenant, Captain, Training Captain, Assistant Fire Chief (Training & EMS), Deputy Fire Chief – and, most recently, Interim Fire Chief, the position in which he has served since June 2022. As such, Interim Chief Sprague has keen knowledge of – and vast experience with – the workings of the Fire Department; moreover, as a Berkeley resident, he is deeply rooted in the city, has broad familiarity with its geography and topography, and is sensitive to the needs of the community.

The holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science, Interim Chief Sprague has led the development and implementation of innovative programs in the Fire Department, including the establishment of a new Wildland-Urban Interface Division that is designed to make Berkeley safer from wildfires and the creation of a stand-alone Paramedic classification that graduated its first cohort in March 2023. He implemented a first responder advanced life support program on nine fire companies and was instrumental in helping manage the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, standing up early testing centers for essential workers and, subsequently, for the community at large.

Along with managing the Fire Department's core operations, Interim Chief Sprague has been a champion of leveraging technology to improve services and has had key roles in securing funds for the department through FEMA grants and the "Yes on Measure GG" campaign.

BACKGROUND

The new Fire Chief will lead a department that is organized along nine offices and divisions to deliver the following baseline services:

- **Office of the Chief:** The Office of the Chief plans, organizes, coordinates, and directs the City's fire prevention, suppression, and emergency medical service programs. This office conducts planning and budgeting, maintains the labor-management relationship, assists City management, and fosters cooperative working relationships with community groups and other agencies.
- **Operations:** The Operations Division's objective is day-to-day delivery of emergency and non-emergency services to the City of Berkeley. This is accomplished through seven firehouses with seven Type I fire engines, two aerial ladder trucks, four advanced life support (ALS) ambulances, a Medical Specialist Team, a Hazardous Materials Response Team, two water rescue crafts, and a team of rescue swimmers.
- **Fire Prevention:** The Fire Prevention Division's goal is to decrease the number and severity of all fires in Berkeley through an active code-enforcement program, public education activities, engineering and plans review, and vegetation management. When fires do occur, Fire Prevention staff investigate fire origin and cause and, if needed, pursue prosecution of responsible parties.
- **Wildland-Urban Interface Division:** This division addresses local wildland target hazards and performs community-based action planning to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resilience. Action Planning provides the foundation and roadmap for the Department's work to prevent wildfires and limit the spread when they ignite.
- **Emergency Medical Services:** The EMS Division oversees the department's pre-hospital care and treatment program for the Berkeley community. All of Berkeley's seven fire engines, two trucks, and four ambulances are staffed with paramedics. The division also oversees emergency medical services for large events.
- **Office of Emergency Services:** Through Berkeley Ready, the Office of Emergency Services coordinates a suite of programs to build disaster resilience throughout the Berkeley community. These programs support personal preparedness, community connections, and government efforts that will help

Berkeley respond to – and recover from – our next earthquake, fire, or other disaster.

- **Training:** The Training Division runs a California State Fire Training (SFT) Accredited Local Academy, where new firefighters attain their SFT Firefighter I and II certifications, while also providing continuous training and development for all members of the department.
- **Support Services:** The Support Services Division coordinates logistical support for emergency and non-emergency operations. This includes design and construction of apparatus; procurement and distribution of tools, equipment, and supplies; and providing subject matter expertise for information technology and radio communications programs.
- **Administrative and Fiscal Services:** The Administrative and Fiscal Services Division supports budget and fiscal policy, payroll, purchasing, administrative systems, record retention compliance, employee training and development, and labor and management relationships. The Division also oversees strategic planning, grant writing, responses to Public Records Act requests, and performance tracking and reporting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Having served the Berkeley Fire Department in various positions for over 21 years, Interim Chief Sprague's experience is broad and varied, while his familiarity with the community and its needs is extensive. Interim Chief Sprague's breadth of knowledge and his spirit of innovation will ensure that BFD will continue delivering the top-tier safety services that Berkeley residents deserve.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager, (510) 981-7000.

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID SPRAGUE-LIVINGSTON
AS FIRE CHIEF

WHEREAS, David Sprague-Livingston is currently serving as the Interim Fire Chief of the Berkeley Fire Department and has over 21 years of experience working in the fire service, including as Firefighter/Paramedic, Paramedic Supervisor, Apparatus Operator, Special Operations Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and most recently, Interim Fire Chief, the position in which he has served for nearly a year; and

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Sprague holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science, has keen knowledge of the workings of the Fire Department, is deeply rooted in the City of Berkeley, has broad familiarity with its geography and topography, and is sensitive to the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Sprague has led the development and implementation of innovative programs in the Fire Department, while playing an instrumental role in helping manage the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, Interim Chief Sprague's education, experience, and vision will ensure that the Berkeley Fire Department continues delivering the top-tier safety services that Berkeley residents deserve;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby confirms the City Manager's appointment of David Sprague-Livingston as the Fire Chief, with an annual base salary of \$268,300.00 on the same terms and conditions as other regular at-will employees effective May 14, 2023.