



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Park Ridge Fire Department announces the promotion of Battalion Chief John Hanson to Deputy Chief effective August 10th.

Deputy Chief Hanson joined the Park Ridge Fire Department in June of 1996 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2004 and Battalion Chief in 2005. During his 24 years of service to the City, he has had multiple responsibilities including EMS, training, hydrants, apparatus and equipment, technology implementation and payroll. In addition, he has taken the lead on many large scale projects over the years, including Y2K, Red Center transition, accreditation, ISO, city-wide notifications, IT consultant selection, and has helped the City greatly during the response to COVID-19.

Deputy Chief Hanson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Aurora University, as well as many Illinois State Fire Certifications in the areas of Fire Officer, Hazardous Materials, Training and Technical Rescue.

The Park Ridge Fire Department also announces the promotion of Captain Derek Decker to Battalion Chief effective August 11th.

Battalion Chief Decker joined the Park Ridge Fire Department in January 2000 and was promoted to Lieutenant in February 2008 and Captain-Training Officer in April 2015. During his 20 years of experience with the Department, he has successfully managed an ever-increasing number of responsibilities in the areas of administration, operations, training and special teams.

In terms of administration, he led the 2012 and 2018 ISO evaluations. In 2018, the Department's score was raised to Class 2; the highest score the Department has ever achieved. He assisted in the coordination of the 2012 migration to RED Center Dispatch Center, led the efforts for Park Ridge when RED Center's CAD system was upgraded in 2017 and also coordinated the station alerting system upgrade project. He has been conducting the Department's pre-employment background investigations for nearly 15 years. Operationally, he has been responsible for the development and maintenance of the Department's response plans, coordination of the pre-planning program, and fire hydrant flow testing initiative.

Battalion Chief Decker holds a Bachelor of Science in Fire Service Management from Southern Illinois University and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration through Aurora University. He possesses numerous OSFM certifications including Chief Fire Officer, Fire Department Safety Officer, Training Program Manager, and Hazardous Materials Incident Command.