

CITY OF MUSCATINE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 22, 2025

CITY OF MUSCATINE APPOINTS INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

Former Assistant Fire Chief asked to assume interim duties as search begins

MUSCATINE, Iowa – Following the announcement of Fire Chief Jerry Ewers' upcoming retirement, Muscatine City Administrator Matt Mardesen has named Mike Hartman as the Interim Fire Chief of the Muscatine Fire Department, effective May 1, 2025.

"Since Chief Ewers' announcement, I've spent time meeting with our Fire Department leadership to ensure continuity of service," Mardesen said. "Their dedication to the department's mission was evident in every conversation."



After careful consideration, Mardesen invited recently retired Assistant Fire Chief Mike Hartman to return and lead the department during this transition. Hartman, who officially retired on April 1, 2025, has agreed to withdraw his retirement and step into the interim role. He will be formally sworn in during the May 1 Muscatine City Council meeting.

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"Mike brings a wealth of experience, passion, and historical knowledge," Mardesen added. "With several known retirements ahead, he is the ideal leader to help prepare and mentor the next generation of Muscatine Fire leadership."

Hartman, who joined the Muscatine Fire Department on November 21, 1994, has served in numerous leadership roles including Fire Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Fire Chief.

Throughout his 30-year career, he has been instrumental in developing key programs, including the department's highly respected fire investigation team and the establishment of the regional HAZMAT team serving multiple counties.

Reflecting on his return, Hartman said, "One of the proudest moments of my life was the day I was hired as a Muscatine Firefighter. I'm honored to have the opportunity to once again serve the department and the community I care deeply about."

An advocate for fire prevention and safety education, Hartman has always emphasized training and community outreach. He carries the memory of fallen firefighter Mike Kruse and the heroes of 9/11 with him, honoring their legacy through his service.

A search for a permanent Fire Chief will begin soon, according to Mardesen.