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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **FROM: Debra Figone**
SUBJECT: Interim Leadership for San José Fire Department **DATE: June 18, 2013**

INFORMATION

With the upcoming departure of San José Fire Chief Willie McDonald this summer, I will appoint Deputy Chief Ruben Torres as Acting Fire Chief to ensure continuity and stability for the Fire Department until we complete the recruitment and selection of our next chief. Chief McDonald and Deputy Chief Torres will work closely together during this period.

Ruben currently serves as Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, responsible for the reorganization of Field Operations and other special projects that provide fire protection and related emergency and non-emergency services to our community. The 27-year San José Fire Department veteran has eight years of senior command experience. As a credentialed Hazardous Material Technician and certified Department Safety Officer, Ruben has also received certifications in Advanced Critical Incident Stress Management (International Critical Incident Stress Foundation) and Advanced Incident Command System (California State Fire Marshal's Office). The married father of four children, who range in age from 4 to 24, is currently getting his Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from National University. Born and raised in San José, Ruben is the most senior active member of the Fire Department.

Because Deputy Chief Torres has two family members who also serve in the Fire Department, I have taken the appropriate steps in consultation with the Office of Employee Relations to ensure that we comply with City policy regarding the supervision of relatives during this interim period. As soon as practical, I will commence a national search for our next chief and develop a timeline so that we can find the right match of qualifications, experience, and personal attributes that will be best for San José and our Fire Department.

On behalf of the men and women in the San José Fire Department, and of our entire community, please join me in welcoming Ruben Torres as Acting Chief. I deeply appreciate Ruben's willingness to serve in this capacity.



Debra Figone
City Manager