



For Immediate Release

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MOUNT VERNON—Mayor Donovan announced the appointment of Bryan Harris to the position of Fire Chief of the Mount Vernon Fire Department. Harris, a longtime resident of Mount Vernon with deep ties to the community, has served as Assistant Chief for the past six years under Chief Bryan Brice who has announced his retirement, effective April 30, 2025. Harris will begin his duties as Fire Chief on April 1, 2025, which will give a month of overlap with Brice, and an opportunity for completion of the Department's succession plan.

"Bryan Harris' appointment to this position is a resounding statement on his leadership abilities, his dedication to public safety, and his commitment to the City of Mount Vernon," Mayor Donovan said. "Promoting from within our department will always be a priority when that option is available, and when it is most advantageous for our residents."

Harris has lived in Mount Vernon for over 25 years, during which time he and his family have been active members of the community. His children have attended and graduated from the Mount Vernon School District, and Harris himself has played a key role in the City's public safety efforts throughout his career.

"Mount Vernon isn't just where I work—it's home," Harris said. "This community has supported my family for decades, and I'm honored to serve as Fire Chief, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents."

Harris began his Fire career in Mount Vernon after retiring from the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a Master Sergeant. His steady advancement through the ranks included roles as Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, and most recently, Assistant Fire Chief of Operations. His vast experience in emergency services, coupled with his commitment to the Mount Vernon community, makes him an ideal choice for the position of Fire Chief.

Throughout his career with the Mount Vernon Fire Department, Harris has been instrumental in advancing public safety initiatives and supporting his fellow firefighters. He has been involved in several key programs, such as:

- **Fire-Based EMS Services:** Harris helped lead the transition to a fire-based EMS system, securing the city’s long-term emergency medical services.
- **EMS Training Hubs:** Harris worked to expand EMS training opportunities to surrounding fire districts, ensuring widespread community safety.
- **Health and Safety Initiatives:** He played a leading role in enhancing firefighter health and safety through statewide collaborations.

Harris’s leadership holds a bachelor’s degree in Fire Service Administration from Eastern Oregon University, graduating cum laude, and an Associate’s degree in Fire Command Administration from Pierce Community College. He holds multiple certifications, including Chief Fire Officer and Chief Training Officer from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

“This city and this fire department mean everything to me,” Harris added. “I am excited to continue working closely with our firefighters and city leaders to ensure Mount Vernon remains a safe and vibrant place for all of us to call home.”

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