

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

James Sanders Appointed Assistant Fire Chief of Operations for Mount Vernon Fire Department

Mount Vernon, WA –January 30, 2025 – Mayor Peter Donovan proudly announces the appointment of Battalion Chief James Sanders as the new Assistant Fire Chief of Operations for the Mount Vernon Fire Department. With 18 years of dedicated service, Sanders brings extensive experience, strong leadership, and a deep-rooted commitment to the Mount Vernon community.

Since joining the Mount Vernon Fire Department, Sanders has served in various capacities, most recently as Battalion Chief, a position he has held since 2019. Throughout his career, he has exemplified outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of the community and his fellow firefighters.

A longtime resident of Mount Vernon, Sanders moved to the city 18 years ago with his wife, Missy, and their three children: Eva, Drew, and Ellie. He is actively involved in the community, enjoying activities such as pickleball at the Blackburn Pavilion and volunteering with organizations like the Skagit Gleaners, the Skagit Community Foundation, and Citipoint Church.

“Mount Vernon has become our home,” said Sanders. “It has been an honor to serve this community personally and professionally. The opportunity to support and lead our firefighters in providing exceptional service to our residents is truly a privilege.”

Sanders holds a Master of Science in Leadership with an emphasis in Executive Fire Leadership from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration from Eastern Oregon University. His strong academic background along with years of hands-on experience, equips him well to oversee department operations.

“Serving others is the greatest vocation in the world,” Sanders said. “I am truly grateful for the trust that Mayor Donovan and Chief Harris have placed in me. I look forward to continuing to serve our community and supporting the incredible team at Mount Vernon Fire Department.”

Fire Chief Select Bryan Harris expressed his confidence in Sanders’ abilities, stating, “James has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to excellence in leadership and service. His passion and dedication will enhance our department’s operations and benefit the community.”

As Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, Sanders will oversee operational strategies, training programs, and Emergency Medical Services to ensure efficient emergency response and uphold the department’s tradition of excellence. His leadership will be instrumental in meeting the growing needs of the Mount Vernon community.