

Appointment of Interim Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services

Date: October 2, 2024

To: City Council

From: City Manager

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend to City Council the appointment of an Interim Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services.

The current Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services, Matthew Pegg will be retired from the City of Toronto on October 4th, 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council appoint Larry Cocco as the Interim Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services for the City of Toronto until such time as a new Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services has been appointed.
2. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the necessary by-laws to give effect to City Council's decision.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report beyond what has already been included in the 2024 Fire Services Operating Budget.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

Subsection 6(1) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 provides that, if a fire department is established for the whole or a part of a municipality or for more than one municipality, the council of the municipality or the councils of the municipalities, as the case may be, shall appoint a fire chief for the fire department.

Additionally, Chapter 79 of the Municipal Code provides that the Fire Chief shall be appointed by Council on the recommendation of the City Manager.

The current Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, Matthew Pegg, will be retiring from the City on October 4th, 2024. A North American-wide recruitment process is currently underway to select a new Fire Chief.

COMMENTS

This report seeks City Council authority to appoint Larry Cocco, currently Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Services, as the Interim Fire Chief & General Manager until such time as a new Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services is appointed.

A competitive recruitment process is underway to appoint a new Fire Chief, Fire Services. The City is working with Odgers Berndtson, an executive recruitment firm to fill this position permanently. It is anticipated that a recommendation for a permanent appointment will be brought forward to City Council soon. When recommending the appointment of the permanent Fire Chief & General Manager, Fire Services, as with all Council appointed positions, City staff will provide details about the hiring process including selection of the executive recruitment firm, position qualifications and assessment criteria, composition and volume of candidates, composition of the selection panel, and a summary of qualifications of the recommended candidate.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Paul Johnson
City Manager