

Good evening Police and Fire Commission

My name is Joe Seifert and I work with the Local 6000 employee group. I represent approximately 500 general and clerical employees that work in a variety of departments throughout the City of Madison. I have had the great privilege to work at the FIRE department for the last 20 years. The Madison Fire Department is made up of commissioned and civilian staff. I work as a civilian inspector which means I routinely inspect commercial properties, follow up with station referrals, I perform fire alarm plan review for new construction projects, I also coordinate work in the prevention division. The department has 31 civilian employees. These positions include, Fire Prevention which includes: Fire Inspection, Community Education, Engineering Plan Review, and Elevator inspections. There are also 6 Admin support staff, the finance and administrative services division, Public Information Officer, the new CARES program and Community Paramedicine program.

Together, we as civilian employees complement the work of our first responders by keeping the public informed, educated, and invested in shared responsibility of fire and injury prevention. Our inspectors and firefighters enter each commercial building, multi-family residential building at least twice a year to ensure they are safe to occupy and in compliance of fire code. Every October, our Community Education Division visits each school in MFD's jurisdictional territory to educate young children about the importance of fire prevention and what to do if there is a fire in their home. Our community paramedics work one-on-one with at-risk individuals to reduce their reliance on the 911 system and local emergency rooms. These investments in frontline prevention and community education are among the reasons why Madison is one of the safest places to live, work, and visit.

The question before us tonight is, what type of person are we seeking to be the next City of Madison Fire Chief.

We would like the next Fire Chief's philosophy to include the following:

Open Communication component:

Communication with staff is extremely important. MFD has had annual meetings with all personnel to discuss current topics, from Budgets, 5 year Capital projects and the chief's goals for the coming year. We feel strongly with the hiring of the new Chief we would encourage routine communication throughout the year regarding department initiatives are extremely important and give employees a road map to the future of the MFD.

Open door Policy: As a labor leader it's important to have conversations regarding current issues, budget constraints and employee performance issues. We hope that this type of access to communication and collaboration will continue under the new Chief.

Standing Committees:

We have several teams and committees at the Department that are doing important work within the department. Two such teams which I feel have been instrumental in giving

members/department employees ability to discuss issues are the Women's Equity Committee and the Equity Team.

These platforms have given people the opportunity to address a variety of issues and set goals for change. I have had the pleasure to sit in both of these committees and believe these committees have given a voice to department employees.

A One-Department philosophy:

We believe public safety begins with prevention and education. The services provided by our non-commissioned employees are just as vital to the community as those of our firefighters and paramedics. With that in mind, we hope the new fire chief will continue to foster an atmosphere where our Prevention and Administration employees are valued, and that continued investments be made to prevention and community education initiatives.

Thank you for giving me a opportunity tonight to address the police and fire commission
I look forward to the open process of hiring the next Fire Chief

Thank you