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City of Springfield Fire Chief to Retire after 30 Years with the Division

SPRINGFIELD, OH—(Dec. 21, 2017)—The City of Springfield has announced that Fire Chief Nick Heimlich will retire on Dec. 29, 2017 after 30 years of service with the Springfield Fire Division.

Of the 30 years, Chief Heimlich spent 17 of those years in top administrative positions, including fire lieutenant, battalion chief and assistant chief. He was promoted to fire chief in 2010.

“It has truly been an honor to serve the City for the past 30 years,” said Chief Heimlich. “I have enjoyed being a public servant working in the Division and for the City. I have had the pleasure of getting to know many talented people who have played a significant role in my career.”

Chief Heimlich believes the past seven years have made the biggest impact on his career due to the long, slow recovery from the deep recession; the onset of the opiate epidemic; the creation of the strategic plan in 2015; and Division restructuring in the service delivery model to increase efficiency and meet multiple organizational objectives in 2016.

The Division was also successful in replacing breathing apparatus equipment through a grant of nearly \$500,000, and was the beneficiary of a bequeathal of nearly \$700,000, which is being used for an addition to Fire Station 3.

Over the years, Chief Heimlich has received multiple awards and recognition, including the City Prime Move in 1991; a Letter of Appreciation from Fire Chief Fowler of the Washington Courthouse Fire Department for his care and compassion during a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Session in 1993; a Letter of Appreciation from Jerome Strozdas, Attorney for Geyer, Strozdas and Pedraza expressing thanks for prompt and efficient service in providing assistance with a Certificate of Occupancy for Dr. Richard Solder, Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine (DVM); and recognition for a Service Above Self from the Rotary in 2007.

Chief Heimlich takes great pride in receiving those awards and recognition but he takes even more pride in the appreciation the community has for the Fire Rescue Division and the work done by each of the Division’s employees. He has received hundreds of letters from residents showing their appreciation and support.



Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshall Brian Miller will become the new fire chief on Dec. 29. Miller has been working closely with Chief Heimlich so he is fully capable to lead the City.

“I would like to extend my appreciation to our residents, my staff and all of the City employees for making the past 30 years memorable,” said Heimlich. “I am fully confident that Brian will continue to lead the Division and move it forward.”

Chief Heimlich is looking forward to spending more time with his family. He hopes to stay connected to the community and the City workers.

“Chief Heimlich has been a great addition to the Fire Division,” said City Manager Jim Bodenmiller. “He has positively impacted our community in numerous ways. We are going to miss him, but we wish him luck in his retirement. I ask the City of Springfield residents to join us in congratulating Chief Heimlich in his retirement and welcoming Brian Miller as our new fire chief.”

For more information on the City of Springfield, please visit www.springfieldohio.gov.

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