



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Selects Patrick O’Connell as New Fire Chief

New Braunfels, Texas — The City of New Braunfels has announced that Mr. Patrick O’Connell has been selected as Fire Chief. Chief O’Connell is currently serving as Interim Fire Chief for the department.

“We had a rigorous interview process, with candidates being interviewed by two separate panels consisting of Fire Department Command Staff, members of the rank and file of the department, and representatives from the Executive Leadership Team,” said City Manager, Robert Camareno. “We also had the candidates make two presentations to the group on specific scenarios they may encounter as Fire Chief. Throughout the process, Chief O’Connell proved he is uniquely capable of leading the New Braunfels Fire Department.”

The Council’s confirmation of his appointment and swearing-in ceremony will held during the September 23, 2019 City Council Meeting.

O’Connell began his career with the Marlin, Texas Fire Department in 1993, followed by stints in the Mexia Fire Department and Corsicana Fire Department, until joining the New Braunfels Fire Department (NBFD) in January of 2005.

Over the course of his career, O’Connell has spent time in fire operations working as a firefighter and paramedic, Fire Marshal and as an Emergency Management Coordinator, and most recently Assistant Fire Chief. He currently serves as the Interim Fire Chief for the City of New Braunfels.

O’Connell has undergraduate degrees in Fire Service Administration and Emergency Management Administration and a master’s degree in Public Affairs. He has his Fire Service Chief Executive Officer designation from the Mays Business School at Texas A&M.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to continue serving the residents of New Braunfels in the capacity of Fire Chief. The City Manager has entrusted me with this position, and I am committed to working with the passionate, capable, and dedicated men and women of the fire department to continue delivering the extraordinary services our citizens and visitors expect and deserve” said Chief O’Connell.

The NBFD is comprised of 135 firefighters and three non-uniform employees. The department is currently housed in six stations, with the seventh in the planning stage.

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