

The Fire Department going forward

To all personnel:

It is my goal to ensure the Charlotte Fire Department continues to be one of – if not the – best departments in the country. We are already successful in many ways, but we can always improve.

As you know, we have been working through the recommendations that were part of the Management Partners report. There is a lot of value for the fire department in the report, including one of the report's top recommendations – which was to bring back division chiefs. We are looking into creating several division chief positions, including one over the airport, which will be funded by the airport itself.

Because of the environment we are in, I believe I also have to be more deliberate in how the next deputy chief is selected. Although we went through the selection process once, we are going to redo it with more eyes and more rigor, and that means it will take a little longer.

To get these selections done and manage the current workload, I am going to redistribute some of the deputy level duties, effective June 1.

- Chief Granger will take Emergency Management, Training and the Airport
- Chief Kinniburgh will pick up Communications.
- Chief Key will keep Operations, with the exception of the airport.
- And I will handle Human Resources, Logistics, Public Affairs and the Budget for now.

Since the deputy chief vacancy occurred in this fiscal year (which runs until June 30), it should be replaced in this year, along with the promotions that would occur as a result of filling that position. We also have an additional battalion chief position to fill as a result of Chief Link's retirement, so I am going to promote the battalion chief and captain positions to fill those openings as soon as possible.

So sit tight and let us work through this. In the next few weeks, we'll have more information about the process for filling the deputy chief and maybe four or five division chiefs, and we plan to have those positions in place later this summer.

Thank you,

Jon Hannan