



WAYNE TOWNSHIP of Marion County

Jeb Bardon, Trustee

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 18, 2022
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BARDON NAMES NEW WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF

Former Westfield Chief Marcus Reed to take over department

INDIANAPOLIS – In the first of many reforms to restore trust and confidence in the Wayne Township Trustee's Office and Fire Department, newly elected Wayne Township Trustee Jeb Bardon has named new leadership to the Wayne Township Fire Department.

On Monday, July 11, Bardon installed Assistant Fire Chief Matt Stewart as interim chief. Today, Bardon is announcing Marcus Reed will serve as the department's new fire chief, effective August 1, 2022.

"Given all that transpired under the previous fire administration, significant changes must be made. And, those changes began this week," said Bardon, who was elected to finish the current term of township trustee. "I am confident that given Chief Reed's experience, he is the right person to lead the Wayne Township Fire Department forward. He brings credibility, integrity and a track record of changing culture and improving service. I am grateful to him for taking on this role."

An experienced and well-respected leader, Reed has helped fire departments around the country. Before retiring in January, he served five years as fire chief in Westfield and has held similar roles with Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue, the City of Roseville in California, Portland Oregon's Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and in Clark County Washington.

"The Wayne Township Fire Department is a world-class organization, and it deserves strong and ethical leadership," added Bardon. "It's my commitment to our firefighters, EMTs, all first responders and all citizens of Wayne Township to rebuild trust, create greater accountability, and to restore pride in this department."

Interim Fire Chief Stewart has been with the department since 1987 and has held all ranks over the course of his career. A licensed paramedic, he has two associate degrees, multiple fire, EMS and rescue certifications and will complete his bachelor's degree next year. Stewart received the Red Cross award for valor in 2006 and several other awards covering many areas of service to the community. He will return to the role of assistant chief in August.

"Chief Stewart has stepped up to the challenge of stabilizing our department and restoring integrity. I am confident that he and Chief Reed will continue with reforms that lead our department forward," added Bardon.

The Wayne Township Advisory Board will approve Chief Reed's contract at their meeting this Wednesday.

Bardon, who was elected to the position on July 9, 2002, is a lifelong township resident. In addition to owning and operating a family business in the community, Bardon served as a state representative from 1998 through 2012 and has been active in the community volunteering with numerous organizations. He and his wife, Kristie, have been married for 21 years and the couple have two daughters.

For more information on the Wayne Township Trustee's Office, visit www.WayneTwp.org

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