



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salt Lake City's Fire Chief Steps Down

Department benefitted from his presence

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Today Salt Lake City Fire Chief Tom Shannon announced his resignation from the Salt Lake City Fire Department. “It is with deep regret that I must inform you of my decision to resign as Fire Chief of Salt Lake City,” an emotional Shannon told Fire Department staff in a weekly briefing meeting. “I have had to weigh the ongoing challenges to my family in Arizona against my career in Salt Lake City and have come to realize that I must return to Arizona to support their needs.”

Chief Shannon was hired as Salt Lake City Fire Department's fire chief in November of 2008, bringing 20 years of experience to the position. He began his career in Glendale Arizona, rapidly moving through the ranks of the Glendale Fire Department. He is enrolled in the United States Department of Homeland Security Post-Graduate School for a master's degree of International Studies in Homeland Security.

Mayor Ralph Becker expressed sadness at Shannon's departure and his appreciation of the Chief's work in Salt Lake City, noting the enthusiasm and expertise Shannon brought to the job. “Tom Shannon quickly earned the trust and respect of his department, the administration and the public,” said Mayor Becker. “Although Tom's stay here in Salt Lake City was short, his impact will be felt for a long time. Chief Shannon came in, emphasized the positives and instilled confidence in the Department. We are sorry to see him leave. We wish him and his family our very best. He knows he will always have friends here in Salt Lake City.”

“I cannot express more sincerely my gratitude for this opportunity and the kindness and support the citizens of Salt Lake City have given me since I have been here,” stated Shannon. “Salt Lake City is a world class city and its Fire Department is an excellent representation of that.”

The Mayor is recommending Salt Lake City Fire Department Deputy Chief of Operations R. Kurt Cook as the next fire chief. Cook has been with the fire department for 24 years. He has

served as firefighter, engineer, captain, battalion chief, and for the past three years, as deputy chief of operations. The Operations Division is the largest division within the department, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of fire and emergency medical services responses.

Deputy Chief Cook is a second generation firefighter. His father Ron Cook served for more than 27 years with the Salt Lake City Fire Department, retiring as a fire captain in 1987.

Chief Shannon's resignation will be effective September 25.

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