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June 18, 2026

Minneapolis City Council
350 South 5th Street
Room 370
Minneapolis, MN 55415

SUBJECT: Nominating Dr. Reginald Freeman to the appointed position of Chief of the Minneapolis Fire Department

Dear Council President Payne, Council Vice President Osman, and Council Members,

With this letter, I am nominating Dr. Reginald Freeman to the appointed position of Chief of the Minneapolis Fire Department.

Dr. Freeman brings decades of leadership experience at both the national and global levels, demonstrating a proven ability to guide our fire department into the future.

With a long-standing and distinguished career, Dr. Freeman has focused on building a positive culture, workforce development, community engagement, resilience, and accountability. From developing the first professional development program for the Oakland Fire Department to leading the Hartford Fire Department to international accreditation – Dr. Freeman is committed to supporting firefighters, developing future leaders, strengthening community relationships, and positioning the department for sustained success.

Throughout his career, he has navigated urban public safety challenges and advanced large-scale emergency service initiatives internationally. His career includes:

1. Fire Chief for the City of Oakland, California
2. Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for the City of Hartford, Connecticut
3. Civilian Fire Chief for the U.S. Department of Defense in Iraq
4. Executive Director of Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Dr. Freeman is eager to meet with each of you and share his vision for the department. He views this role as an opportunity to help lead a proud fire department with a strong history, highly capable personnel, and tremendous potential for continued modernization and growth. He will be joined in Minneapolis by his wife of 23 years, Erin, and his two daughters, 13-year-old Harmony and 9-year-old Joy.

I am requesting that the City Council forward Dr. Freeman's name as the person we are considering for appointment to the role of Chief of the Minneapolis Fire Department and refer it to the proper Council Committee for a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey

CC: Casey Carl, City Clerk