



Office of the City Manager

June 14, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Subject: Retirement of Fire Chief Abraham Roman

I want to let you know that Chief Abraham Roman will be retiring from the City of Berkeley. His last day in the office will be Friday, June 24, 2022. Deputy Chief Dave Sprague will be Interim Chief as a process for finding a permanent chief is developed.

Chief Roman served in an array of roles for the Berkeley Fire Department, starting with the department in 1999 as a Firefighter/Paramedic, working up from every rank within the Fire Department. He was promoted to Fire Apparatus Operator in 2001, Fire Lieutenant in 2007, Fire Captain in 2009 and then Deputy Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief – Director of Training and Safety in 2012. During his tenure, obtained over twenty-five certifications in Fire related trainings. Chief Roman demonstrated exemplary leadership in managing and directing operations and activities of the Fire Department during very critical times, ranging from response to wildfires as well as COVID-19. I am very grateful to him for his service and commitment to the City.

Chief Sprague was hired in 2001. He has held the ranks of Firefighter, Apparatus Operator, Paramedic Supervisor, Special Operations Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Assistant Chief of Training and EMS and Deputy Fire Chief. He was an active member of USAR Task Force-4 and deployed to hurricane Katrina. He has always been an engaged member of the organization that believes in working with the members and stakeholders to make our service to the community and our organization better.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager
Senior Leadership Team
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager