City of Stockton Fire Department
Fire Chief Change of Command and Badge Pinning Ceremony

Friday, January 10, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium
Richard J. Edwards

Richard J. Edwards was selected as the 18th City of Stockton Fire Chief in December of 2019. Chief Edwards began his fire service career as a Volunteer Firefighter in 1995 with the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District. He became a professional firefighter with the Georgetown Fire District in 1998, and later worked for the City of Folsom as a Firefighter Paramedic before leaving for the City of Stockton in 2000.

Edwards worked as a Firefighter Paramedic and Engineer at Company 9 for eight years and was reassigned to Company 2 when he promoted to Fire Captain in 2008. In 2014, Edwards promoted to Battalion Chief and was assigned to Battalion 2, responsible for the seven fire companies north of the Calaveras River. In 2017, Edwards was appointed to the Fire Prevention Bureau as the City’s Fire Marshal. Edwards was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in 2019.

Chief Edwards holds an Associate’s degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor’s degree in Emergency Management. He is currently enrolled in a Master’s program, studying Organizational Leadership and Public Administration. Chief Edwards holds certification as a Chief Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Paramedic, and an Emergency Management Specialist.

Chief Edwards will oversee the Stockton Fire Department’s $57 million budget and 217 employees from Operations, Administration, Fire Prevention, Emergency Communications, and Training. The Stockton Fire Department operates 15 fire companies from 12 stations. In addition to fire suppression and emergency medical services, the department also has an Urban Search and Rescue Team, Swift Water and Dive Rescue Team, Hazardous Materials Team, and Tactical Paramedics. The department also assists our mutual aid partners, deploying apparatus and personnel to significant fires all across the state.

Chief Edwards has been married to his best friend, Jennifer, for 16 years. Together they have four children. He is proud to lead an outstanding fire department and looks forward to the opportunities to develop new relationships with internal and external stakeholders across the region. Chief Edwards is committed to providing the best services to the community while ensuring his personnel has the tools and training necessary for long, healthy careers.
Welcome & Introductions

Division Chief Ken Johnson

Opening Benediction

Fire Chaplain Mark Butler

Presentation of the Colors

Stockton Fire Honor Guard

National Anthem

Julie Lorch
Janice Machado

Ceremonial Remarks

Interim City Manager Laurie Montes

Passing of the Trumpet

Interim Fire Chief David L. Rudat

Pinning Ceremony, Promotion to Fire Captain

Bob Newman
Jeff Young
Xavier Ricci
Ryan Smart
Guillermo Reyes

Comments from President of Local 456

Firefighter Engineer Mario Gardea

Closing

Division Chief Ken Johnson
Stockton Fire Department
Chief Officers

Deputy Fire Chief
Brad Palmer

Division Chiefs
Ken Johnson
Shannon Lewis
Rick Stubstad

Battalion Chiefs
Brandon Doolan
Mark Duerr
Lane Healy
James Klein
Matt Knierim
John Titus

Please join us for refreshments following the ceremony.