



THE CITY OF MEBANE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2023

INTRODUCING MEBANE'S NEW FIRE CHIEF

MEBANE, N.C. (December 6, 2023) – Having undergone a rigorous search for a well-qualified candidate, the City of Mebane is pleased to announce the appointment of John Wellons as the next Chief of the Mebane Fire Department.



Chief Wellons is a highly proficient and experienced firefighter who has served in various fire service roles. He currently serves the Chapel Hill Fire Department as the Interim Chief of Operations and Training. During his 20-year tenure with the Chapel Hill Fire Department, Chief Wellons has developed the skills and training necessary to serve as a firefighter, master firefighter, fire equipment operator, lieutenant, captain, and battalion chief. He has provided direct supervision of company officers, overseen shift training/mentoring, as well as incident management, and inspected, repaired, and maintained self-contained breathing apparatuses for departments in the Carolinas. In his current role as the Interim Chief of Operations and Training, he oversees the department's daily operations, including administering department policies and procedures for managing instructional resources, staff, facilities, records, and reports. His role includes serving as the department's incident commander for significant events. His experience and knowledge allow him to make well-informed decisions under pressure while maintaining positive relationships with external and internal stakeholders.

Aside from his duties with the Chapel Hill Fire Department, Chief Wellons is highly familiar with the Mebane Fire Department as he has served as a volunteer for the past eight years. Beginning in 2015, Chief Wellons started his volunteer work within our community, and in 2018, he worked his way up the ranks to become a Volunteer Fire Captain. In addition to his professional credentials, Chief Wellons holds numerous Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) certifications such as Firefighter I and II, Emergency Vehicle Driver, Driver Operator Pumps, and Hazardous Materials Level I certified. He also holds certifications in Rapid Intervention Team, Technical General Rescue, and specialty certifications in Confined Space, Trench, Vehicle, and Machinery. Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Chief Wellons is certified in National Incident Management Systems, Active Shooter Incident Management, Leadership, and Emergency Response to Terrorism, Strategies, and Tactics for Initial Company Operations. He holds a Critical Incident Stress Management certification through the University of Maryland, is certified in Fire Rescue Management from the University of North Carolina Charlotte, and is certified in Law and Administration from Coastal Carolina Community College.

In order to find the right candidate, the City utilized the services of the Development Associates LLC to assist with the recruitment and selection process. Once the top candidates were selected, they underwent a round of interviews with the Mebane City Manager. “With over 50 dedicated and talented applicants, this decision was not easy. The use of Development Associates allowed an unbiased and representative approach to our process,” Chris Rollins, City Manager, said.

Chief Wellons’s dedication to serving the community while building positive relationships makes the City of Mebane delighted to welcome him to our positively charming city. City Manager Chris Rollins stated, “Chief Wellons has the skills and experience from a larger department combined with his dedication as a volunteer Captain in the Mebane Fire Department to maintain the high standards and core values of our fire department.” “I am thrilled to join the City of Mebane as the next Fire Chief. As a long-time resident of Mebane and a volunteer with the department, I am both humbled and honored to accept the position and look forward to continuing the legacy of excellence for which the Mebane Fire Department is widely known. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community in this role. I eagerly anticipate working alongside the many wonderful volunteers, paid firefighters, community members, and community leaders within our city,” Wellons said.

Chief Wellons is expected to assume his duties with the Mebane Fire Department on December 21, 2023.

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Our Mission:

“The City of Mebane is dedicated to providing our citizens with high-quality municipal services within our Positively Charming community in a friendly, professional, and efficient manner in order to enhance the quality of life, economic prosperity, and safety citywide.”

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