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Re-appointment of Brian Vaeth

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Good Evening Chief Clack,

On or about February 25th, President Rawlings-Blake received an e-mail request for assistance from Mr. Brian Vaeth, a 13 year veteran of the Baltimore City Fire Department. Mr. Vaeth received injuries to his back in the Line of Duty on August 2, 1996. By 1999, it was determined that as a result of the injuries he sustained in 1996, Mr. Vaeth needed surgery for herniated discs at the L-4/5 and S/I levels. Mr. Vaeth had surgery and returned to work in about 8 weeks. After approximately 3 years, Mr. Vaeth began to experience issues with his back off and on, which resulted in another corrective type surgery (scar tissue had compromised the original surgery site and he contracted a Staph infection while hospitalized). A very long story short, Mr. Vaeth was deemed to be permanently disabled by the Public Safety Infirmary and denied the Functional Capacity Examination, even though his surgeon and other medical professional have released him from their care and deemed him ready to return to his normal duties. Since July 2002, Mr. Vaeth has been without employment or benefits. He is deeply committed to his chosen line of work and the City of Baltimore and wants nothing more than to be reinstated to the Baltimore City Fire Department. Mr. Vaeth has received numerous commendations, as well as, he was one of the firefighters from Baltimore who volunteered to serve at 9/11 Ground Zero and served 101 hours during the downtown tunnel fire. Mr. Vaeth wants no type of compensation, retirement or otherwise, he simply wants to return to what he considers his life's work.

It is respectfully requested that Mr. Vaeth's case be re-investigated and that he be granted the prescribed due process for reinstatement, i.e. – PSI Hearing and Functional Capacity Examination. If given the opportunity to meet with you, I believe that you will agree that Mr. Vaeth presents a very compelling case, complete with a plethora of well organized and detailed supporting documentation. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Cassandra Stewart
Constituent Services Director
The Office of City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake