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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lowell Fire Chief Jeffrey Winward Announces Retirement**

LOWELL - Jeffrey Winward has announced that he will be retiring as Lowell Fire Chief effective April 11, 2020. His announcement marks the culmination of a long and distinguished career with the Lowell Fire Department.

Winward began his service in Lowell in 1994, making him a 26 year veteran of the Department. He started as a dispatcher, and after becoming a firefighter was promoted to lieutenant, captain, and deputy chief in quick succession over just 11 years, reflecting his professionalism and distinction within the Fire Department.

Winward was appointed Chief in November of 2015. In that capacity, he has served as a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts, and is the Treasurer of the Massachusetts District Six Fire Chief's Association. Chief Winward has also been a leader in the City of Lowell's efforts to respond to the opioid crisis. He serves on the Middlesex County District Attorney's Opiate Task Force, the Lowell Mayor's Opiate Task Force, and the Lowell House Board of Advisors.

"It has been an honor and a privilege serving as the leader of the great Lowell Fire Department and serving the citizens of the community that I love," **said Chief Jeffrey Winward.** "I am proud of the hard work that the men and women of the Lowell Fire Department do every day to keep our City safe. I thank each and every one of them for their dedication and commitment."

"Jeff Winward has been a force for good during his time as Lowell's Fire Chief and throughout his time with the Fire Department. His goodwill and character have made him not only tremendous leader for the Fire Department, but a widely respected member of the community," **said City Manager Eileen Donoghue.** "Chief Winward's steady hand, his thoughtfulness and his dynamic style of leadership will be missed."

The City of Lowell anticipates beginning the process to appoint a new Fire Chief in the coming weeks.

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