

From: [Brent Jackson](#)
To: daisy@columbusnc.com
Subject: Fwd: Leadership Transition
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 10:06:17 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Pat McCool <cool1760@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 29, 2023, 2:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Leadership Transition
To: Brent Jackson <brentj.columbus@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pat McCool <cool1760@gmail.com>
Date: September 29, 2023 at 2:22:42 PM EDT
To: Tim Barth <manager@columbusnc.com>
Subject: Fwd: Leadership Transition

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Josh Walton <firechief@tryonnc.gov>
Date: September 29, 2023 at 11:09:00 AM EDT
To: warren.ashmore@landrumfire.com, Catherine Rogerson <crogerson2@gmail.com>
Cc: scott.hamby@columbusncpd.com, rdellinger@saludafire.org, rodneygragg@gmail.com, cool1760@gmail.com, mcrater@polknc.org, firemedic2507@yahoo.com, brentseay@gmail.com, jimmy smith <jbsmith10@hotmail.com>, jsmith71879@yahoo.com, ptoverholt87@yahoo.com, Katrina Shambaugh <kshambaugh@rcsnc.org>, millspringfired24@gmail.com, twright@polknc.org, mpittman@polknc.org
Subject: Re: Leadership Transition

Thank you for the update! Tryon Fire wishes Chief Priester best of luck and happiness in his new chapter. We thank him for his service

to his community and Polk County. We will continue to serve with Columbus Fire as you all move forward. We also look forward to serving with Chief Avoles and will continue to support the department thru this transition.

Respectfully,
Josh Walton
Fire Chief
Town of Tryon

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From: warren.ashmore@landrumfire.com
<warren.ashmore@landrumfire.com>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 10:59:59 AM
To: Catherine Rogerson <crogerson2@gmail.com>
Cc: scott.hamby@columbusncpd.com
<scott.hamby@columbusncpd.com>; rdellinger@saludafire.org
<rdellinger@saludafire.org>; rodneygragg@gmail.com
<rodneygragg@gmail.com>; cool1760@gmail.com
<cool1760@gmail.com>; mcrater@polknc.org <mcrater@polknc.org>;
firemedic2507@yahoo.com <firemedic2507@yahoo.com>; Josh Walton
<firechief@tryonnc.gov>; brentseay@gmail.com
<brentseay@gmail.com>; jimmy smith <jbsmith10@hotmail.com>;
jsmith71879@yahoo.com <jsmith71879@yahoo.com>;
ptoverholt87@yahoo.com <ptoverholt87@yahoo.com>; Katrina
Shambaugh <kshambaugh@rcsnc.org>; millspringfired24@gmail.com
<millspringfired24@gmail.com>; twright@polknc.org
<twright@polknc.org>; mpittman@polknc.org <mpittman@polknc.org>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Leadership Transition

Thank you for the update! Best of luck to you all in finding your replacement. We appreciate the service of Chief Priester and the relationship we have with Columbus. We look forward to working with Interim Chief Avoles as you transition forward.

Warren Ashmore
Fire Chief
Landrum Fire and Rescue District
Station Phone: 864-457-3101
Cell Phone: 864-529-1492
warren.ashmore@landrumfire.com

On 2023-09-29 10:33, Catherine Rogerson wrote:

> Dear Partners,
>

> We would like to make you aware of a leadership transition at the Town
> of Columbus Fire Department. We do not expect any disruptions in our

> operations as we have a strong team who will continue to respond to
> calls with the utmost urgency, care, and professionalism. If you have
> any questions, please reach out to us. The emails of our board
> members are included in the address bar of this email.
>
> As a board, we met with Chief Tony Priester yesterday. He emphasized
> his hope that the department continues to move forward with new
> leadership as he tenured his retirement at this time. As he shared his
> thoughts with us, he told us, "There can be change without progress,
> but there can't be progress without change." It is with that
> sentiment that we bid farewell to Chief Priester.
>
> He has made many significant improvements to the department such as
an
> improved ISO rating and managing a difficult budget as he grew the
> number of paid staff from 1 to 9. We honor his long-term dedication
> and welcome your input as we transition into a new era.
>
> _At this time, Tom Avoles will serve as the interim chief while we
> begin the process of seeking a full-term replacement. Please respect
> him in all ways as chief until further notice._
>
> Thank you for your ongoing support through this transition.
>
> Pat Overholt
> Brent Seay
> Kat Shambaugh
> Jimmy Smith
> James Smith
> Cathy Rogerson
> Board of Directors, Town of Columbus Fire Department