

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD APPOINTS GREG PRIEST TO SERVE AS TOWN'S
NEXT FIRE CHIEF

WEST HARTFORD, CT – Matt Hart, West Hartford Town Manager, announced today that he has appointed Gregory H. Priest of Salem, CT to serve as the Town's next Fire Chief. Chief Priest will assume his new role on November 10, 2018.

Mr. Priest was recently hired as the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations for the West Hartford Fire Department. Prior to joining West Hartford Fire, Chief Priest served as the Fire Chief and Associate Director of Public Safety at the University of Connecticut (UCONN).

Chief Priest joined the UCONN Fire Department in 1997 and steadily rose through the ranks, holding positions with managerial responsibility for fire suppression, fire prevention, and fire service-based emergency medical services to include both transport and intercept paramedic programs. Chief Priest holds a bachelor's degree from Charter Oak State College, and is a licensed paramedic in Connecticut. He is also certified as a Fire Service Officer IV, Fire Service Instructor III, Fire Investigator, and HazMat Technician. In addition, Chief Priest is credentialed by the Center for Public Safety Excellence as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and Chief EMS Officer (CEMSO).

Mr. Hart states: "I'm very pleased to appoint Greg Priest as the next Chief of the West Hartford Fire Department. In his short time with us, Chief Priest has impressed me with his knowledge and experience, his character and integrity, and his ability to develop an effective working relationship with both the members of the Fire Department and the town's leadership team. The West Hartford Fire Department has an excellent reputation and we were fortunate to attract a strong pool of candidates. I would like to thank each and every one of them for expressing their interest in this position. I look forward to Chief Priest's leadership and am confident that he will do an excellent job in his new role."

Chief Priest will succeed Chief Gary Allyn, who is retiring after 30 years with the West Hartford Fire Department. At a future date, the Town will announce plans for Chief Priest's swearing-in ceremony.
