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For Immediate Release  
 June 28, 2016

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## City Announces New Fire Chief

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg announces the appointment of its next fire chief of the Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD).

Ian Bennett, deputy chief of HFD, was selected from a candidate pool of 37 applicants. He has served as deputy fire chief of operations for the city since 2008 and has more than 28 years worth of experience in the fire service. Bennett will replace retiring Chief Larry Shifflett, who ends his 46-year tenure with the city, including 33 years as chief, on July 31.

“We have a highly regarded fire department that Chief Shifflett leaves in great standing,” said Kurt Hodgen, city manager. “Ian Bennett is the best candidate to lead the department in the continuation of our culture of providing exceptional emergency services and public education.”

In 1987, Bennett began his career as a firefighter for Harrisonburg and has worked with several other departments as deputy chief including Rockingham County, Auburn, Alabama, and the Virginia Air National Guard Fire and Rescue. He also served as a battalion chief for Castle Rock, Colorado.

Bennett received his undergraduate degree in political science from James Madison University and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He is also a member of the Virginia Fire Chief's Association.

Bennett will begin his duties as fire chief on August 1.

To learn more about the Harrisonburg Fire Department, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire).

*The city of Harrisonburg is home to four **Harrisonburg Fire Department** stations. For more information about each fire station, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/hfd-stations](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/hfd-stations).*



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