



April 10, 2023

Chery Pierzina  
Human Resource Officer  
City of Grand Rapids

Chery,

This serves as my letter of interest for the Police Captain position with the police department. I feel that I am very well qualified for this position as I have considerable training and experience in public safety administration, as well as having the respect of my fellow officers.

I have been employed full time with the Grand Rapids Police Department since October of 2011. As of May 1, 2023, I will have 19 years of continuous law enforcement experience including one year as Chief of Police for the City of Hill City. Since joining the Grand Rapids Police Department in 2011, I have been a patrol officer, investigator, and a sergeant.

I have also served as the Fire Chief in Hill City for the past 14 years and feel that that position has given me great experience in Public Safety administration that will benefit me as a Captain, and the Grand Rapids Police Department. As Fire Chief, I am responsible for the hiring and training of new firefighters and EMR's, budgeting, maintaining relationships with the 7 townships that we serve, equipment purchasing and maintenance, along with incident management and command.

For 5 of my 6 years with the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office, I was a narcotic detection K9 handler, which consisted of having to manage the care and training of the K9 along with being available to and working with other deputies and law enforcement agencies in the area.

From 1997 to 2004, I had the privilege of being an Explorer and a Reserve Officer with the Police Department. I have seen the police department grow and develop into one of the best law enforcement agencies in the state, with great officers and leadership.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree, in Criminal Justice, through Bemidji State University. I have also completed several different leadership trainings, including the MN BCA Supervision and Management program, CLEO and

Command Academy, the Patrol Online Leadership series, and fire officer training, which have provided me with the educational component of being an effective leader.

In my former role as an Investigator, and in my current role as a Sergeant, I am very proud of the relationships I built and the collaboration created between myself and other law enforcement agencies not only in Itasca County, but across the state and federally. I am also proud of the relationships with other agencies, such as Child Protection, the County and City Attorney's offices, Support within Reach, and many others, that I have developed. I have also been able to do presentations for different businesses, programs, such as the YMCA childcare and Invest Early, and clubs, such as Rotary, on different law enforcement issues. I have also been on the Itasca County Radio User's Board for numerous years, and currently serve as president of the board.

I feel that community involvement and increasing the relationship between the public and law enforcement is one of the most important aspects in law enforcement currently. I have been involved in and helped organize, many events, such as National Night Out, Shop with a Hero, Polar Plunge, and daycare visits, that strengthen the community relationship with GRPD. I participated in the Lunch Buddies program for 3 years at Murphy Elementary and have been a DARE instructor for 9 years at the middle school and West Elementary. I have been instrumental in the organization of the DARE fundraiser, to be able to take the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to a Twins Game. I also currently serve as the committee chairman for Boy Scout Troop 4041 in Grand Rapids.

My latest endeavor into public service has been with my election to the ISD. 002 School Board in Hill City. Although I have only been a part of this for 3 months, I have learned a lot about budgeting and personnel management from a different perspective than I am used to.

I have an in-depth understanding of the responsibilities expected with this position and I know that I will be able to exceed those expectations.

Thank you for this opportunity.



Jeremy Nelson

# JEREMY NELSON

## GOAL:

To obtain the position of Captain with the Grand Rapids Police Department, and thereby using my training, experience, and leadership skills in public safety to continue and improve on the exceptional quality service that the Grand Rapids Police Department provides to the citizens and visitors to the area on a daily basis.

## EDUCATION:

- Grand Rapids High School – Diploma – 2000
- Itasca Community College – Associate of Arts Degree – 2001
- Bemidji State University – Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice – 2003
- Hibbing Community College – Law Enforcement Skills Program – Summer 2003

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

- **Grand Rapids Police Department** – Sergeant 10/2021 to Present, Investigator 12/2016 to 10/2021, Patrol Officer – 10/2011 to 12/2016
  - DARE Officer, President of Itasca County Radio User Board, Assists in organizing community events, General patrol duties; including traffic enforcement, responding to calls, investigation of crimes, enforcement of MN State laws and City ordinances, preparing reports, and testifying in court. Supervise two patrol staff, chaplain program, order equipment, approve cases, and building and maintaining community relationships.
- **Aitkin County Sheriff's Office** – Deputy Sheriff - 08/2005 to 10/2011
  - Patrol Deputy, Narcotic Detection K-9 Handler (2006-2011), Member Northeast Regional Radio User Board
- **Hill City Police Department** – Police Chief – 06/2004 to 08/2005
  - Responsible for budgeting, scheduling, hiring and supervision of 3 part time officers, and general patrol work and investigations, general day to day operations of police department
- **Hill City Police Department** - Police Officer (Part time) 05/04 to 06/04 and 11/2011 to Present
  - General patrol work
- **Hill City Fire Department** - Fire Chief – 01/09 to Present, Firefighter 05/03 to Present.
  - Incident command, budgeting, hiring and supervision of 25 officers and firefighters, fire prevention activities, incident reporting, applying for and administrating state and federal grants, general day-to-day operations, facility/equipment management, building and maintaining relationships with City Council, Township boards, and other public safety and private organizations.
- **MN DNR Forestry** – Smokechaser – 04/2001 to 05/2019
  - Wildland firefighting, tracked vehicle operator, incident commander type 5
- **North Homes Inc** – Youth Counselor – 2003 to 2004
  - Day to day programming for youth on shelter/evaluation side of IJC.
- **Kmart** – Loss Prevention Associate/ Sales Associate - 1998 to 2003
  - Detection and apprehension of internal and external theft issues.

## VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EXPERIENCE:

- I.S.D. #002 School Board Member

- Hill City First Responders - 2001 – Present
- Polar Plunge presented by Law Enforcement 2011 to Present
- Shop with a Hero – 2012 to Present
- Boy Scout Troop 4041 Committee Chairman
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Volunteer DNR Firearms Safety Instructor
- DARE Fundraiser
- Lunch Buddies – through 4H
- Grand Rapids Police Reserves – 2002 to 2005
- Grand Rapids Police Explorers – 1997 to 2002

**LICENSES:**

MN POST License #17512 – 05/01/2004 to Present, First Responder/EMR #510312 – 2001 to Present

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Minnesota Fire Chief's Association, FOP Lodge #24, Eagles Club, MPPOA, Northwoods Quad's ATV club

**LEADERSHIP TRAININGS:**

MN BCA Supervision and Management Certificate, CLEO and Command Academy, Certified Fire Officer 1, Patrol Online – Supervision and Leadership Series.

**SUMMARY OF SPECIALIZED TRAININGS:**

Datamaster Operator, Crisis Intervention Training, Armer Radio System trainer, BCA Basic Arson Investigation, DARE Officer, Reid Interview and Interrogation, Narcotic Interdiction, First Responder/EMR, Firefighter 1&2, Hazmat Operations, Death Investigation, LIDAR certified, Death Notification Training, Street Crimes Seminar, Domestic Violence Investigations, Stalking in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Sexual Assault Investigations, Immigration 101, Alzheimer's Training, High Risk Warrants, Death Investigations, Missing Persons, First Witness Forensic Interviewing, EVOC Instructor, Certified Fire Instructor 1, ARMER Subscriber APX Programming, Aride, OPUE, MSP Mobile Field Force Training, MN Fire Marshal Fire Investigation 1&2, BCA Financial Crimes Task Force Conference, Medical Examiner Annual Forensic Science Seminar, BCA Missing Person Conference, BCA Death Investigation Conference, De-escalation Trainings, Background Investigations, and Hate Crime Investigations.

**AWARDS:**

2016 Kiwanis Noon Club Service Officer Award

April 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I can honestly say, this recommendation is one of the easiest I have ever been asked to write.

I have known Jeremy for several years through our working relationship with the city council and as a community member.

I've worked closely with Jeremy and have had opportunities to observe him both professionally and as a community member. He is a respected member of both our community and our fire department. His ability to communicate, mentor and motivate has helped develop and maintain our fire department numbers and contributes to their growth. He is the "stabilizer" in the group of very diverse personalities.

Jeremy communicates effectively and timely with the city council in all matters. His budget reports are always current, clear and demonstrate the knowledge and awareness of both current and future needs.

Jeremy has built strong connections with our surrounding townships. His trusted reputation and his ability to communicate has helped develop a strong working relationship that benefits both our fire department and area townships.

I have no hesitation in recommending Jeremy for any position in leadership. The qualities he brings will be a benefit to any organization he chooses to be a part of.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lin M Benson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lin M Benson

Hill City City Council

218-259-5878

# Itasca County Sheriff's Office



**JOE DASOVICH, SHERIFF**

04/12/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to give my support to Jeremy Nelson for the position of Captain for the Grand Rapids Police Department. Jeremy is an active member of the DARE team for the Itasca County community. DARE requires incredible amounts of community interaction and the relationships built through DARE are lifelong. Jeremy's passion for the DARE program even extends to his family with his wife and children also volunteering for the organization. I think family buy-in is essential and the Nelson's seems to have a great support structure for each other.

He is an informal, but effective, leader and police officers and deputies all take to Jeremy's style of leadership.

I want to circle back and just reiterate how much of this career is building healthy relationships. I see Jeremy having coffee in the Sheriff's Office with several different employees and they all seem to really enjoy his company. Jeremy embodies the values needed to be successful in moving both law enforcement and the Grand Rapids Fire Department into the future. It is by working together that we are going to make lasting changes. Building a strong team to encourage that transition is essential, and I already feel a different culture at the Itasca Chief's meeting with Kevin and Andy representing the Police Department. Adding Jeremy to the GRFP will be another solid foundational choice for our community.

In closing, I want to express my whole-hearted support for Jeremy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Dasovich".

Sheriff Joe Dasovich

RE: Letter of Recommendation – Jeremy Nelson

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Todd Webb and I have been a prosecuting attorney since 1991. In my career, I have worked as the Moorhead City Prosecutor, the Clay County Attorney and in my current position as the First Assistant Itasca County Attorney – Criminal Division. I continue to be privileged to work with Federal, State, County and City law enforcement officers to provide effective investigation and prosecution of crime. With this experience in mind, I recommend Jeremy Nelson for the position of Police Captain.

It is my pleasure of working with Jeremy. Jeremy has impressed me with his diligence and knowledge of the law. Jeremy is a pro-active cop who uncovers crime rather than merely responds to calls for service. Jeremy has the critical-thinking skills and administrative experience that is necessary for this type of position. Jeremy is able to constructively discuss issues and is effective while working under stress. Jeremy has played a significant role in moving GRPD in the right direction.

Although his work would be missed out on the street, Jeremy would make an excellent Police Captain.

Sincerely,



Todd S. Webb