



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: February 27, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: Consider retirement of Chief of Police Steve Schaar and direct staff to initiate interviews for the position of Chief of Police

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resource Officer

BACKGROUND:

On July 12, 2021, City Council appointed Steve Schaar to the position of Chief of Police. Based on the Employment Agreement with Steve Schaar, which was also approved on July 12, 2021, the term of his Employment Agreement was for a period of time beginning August 1, 2021, through April 30, 2023.

Steve Schaar began his career with the City of Grand Rapids as a Patrol Officer on October 13, 1996. Over the years, Steve has served in every aspect of the Police Department, becoming a Sergeant in 2008, Assistant Chief of Police in 2010, and Chief of Police in 2021. Steve has proven himself to be extremely dedicated to the City. He has served Grand Rapids and the surrounding communities with wisdom and integrity for 27 years. A copy of the Employment Agreement with Steve Schaar is attached.

The structural process for filling the Chief position is to interview our two Captains. Our current Captains are Kevin Ott and Andy Morgan. City Administrator Tom Pagel is requesting that the Mayor and one appointed council member be on the interview committee, along with the City Attorney and Human Resources Officer. The two interviews will be conducted on Thursday, March 9, 2023, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to acknowledge the retirement of Steve Schaar, in accordance with his Employment Agreement, effective April 30, 2023; Appoint the Mayor, and one additional Council Member to the interview committee for the position of Chief of Police, and direct staff to initiate interviews with Captain Andy Morgan and Captain Kevin Ott, for the position of Chief of Police.