

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-18**

**AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 142.02 TITLED  
“CHIEF OF DIVISION OF FIRE.”**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Willowick is a home-rule municipality reserving unto itself all powers of local self-government in its Charter.

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of municipal employees is a matter of local self-government under *City of Cleveland ex rel. Neelon v. Locher* (1971), 25 Ohio St.2d 49, 50.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Willowick Charter clearly and expressly states that the Willowick City Council is authorized to adopt Ordinances that relate to civil service appointments, promotions, demotions, hirings, terminations and all other civil service personnel matters; and that such Ordinances shall prevail over any State civil service statutes that may directly or indirectly conflict therewith.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
WILLOWICK, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** Section 141.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willowick, entitled “CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF FIRE” is hereby established to read and provide as follows:

**141.02 CHIEF OF DIVISION OF FIRE**

(a) Subject to the orders and directions of the Director of Public Safety, the Chief of the Division of Fire shall be responsible for the organization and supervision of the Division of Fire. Included within the supervisory authority of the Chief shall be firefighters of all ranks, whether part-time or full-time, and any secretaries assigned to the Division. The Chief shall also perform all duties and exercise all authority granted to the Chief in the Willowick Codified Ordinances, the Ohio Revised Code, and the Ohio Administrative Code.

(b) Pursuant to the Charter, the Chief is in the classified service of the City. Vacancies in the position shall be filled first by competitive examination and assessment of eligible Captains and Lieutenants in the Willowick Fire Department conducted by the Civil Service Commission. If less than two (2) internal candidates sit for the examination for the position, or if all internal candidates on the eligibility list decline the appointment, individuals from outside the employ of the City of Willowick shall be eligible to take the competitive examination and assessment for, and subsequently appointed to, the position of Chief.

(c) There shall be no maximum age limitation on an individual appointed to the position of Chief of the Division of Fire.

(d) In all respects not in conflict herewith, the rules of the Civil Service Commission shall apply.

**Section 2.** All formal actions of this Council concerning the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting, and that all deliberations of this Council, or any of its Committees, which resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances and Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**WHEREFORE**, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage by Council and approval by the Mayor.

Adopted by Council: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Koudela, Council President

Submitted to the Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Vanni, Mayor

Approved by the Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Morgan, Clerk of Council