

Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MANITOWOC
Commendation

WHEREAS,

Fire Chief Todd Blaser is an experienced public safety executive with 34 years of progressive leadership in the fire service, including 12 years as Manitowoc's Fire Chief, and extensive experience in emergency management, personnel development, and organizational governance; and

WHEREAS,

throughout his career, he has been recognized as a proven mentor and collaborative leader known for integrity, empathy, professionalism, and calm decision-making in high-pressure environments; and

WHEREAS,

Chief Blaser has demonstrated core competencies in executive leadership and administration, emergency and incident management, mentorship and staff development, public safety and risk management, technical and hazardous materials response, training and compliance, conflict resolution and communication, interagency collaboration, and youth and community engagement; and

WHEREAS,

Todd began his fire service career as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter with the City of Franklin Fire Department from 1986 to 1992, responding to fire, medical, and rescue emergencies while gaining foundational experience in fire suppression and emergency services; and

WHEREAS,

in his early years, he served with distinction as a Lieutenant and Firefighter-Paramedic with the Pleasant Prairie Fire Rescue Department from 1992 to 2009, providing advanced life support as a licensed paramedic, supervising personnel and emergency operations, and conducting training, inspections, and community safety initiatives; and

WHEREAS,

he served as Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Manitowoc Fire Rescue Department from 2009 to 2014, where he assisted in department leadership, emergency response planning, training oversight, operational readiness, and interagency coordination; and

WHEREAS,

Todd Blaser has faithfully served as Fire Chief for the City of Manitowoc Fire Rescue Department from 2014 to 2026, where he led all operational, administrative, and strategic functions of a municipal fire department, including personnel management, training, budgeting, policy development, and regulatory compliance; and

WHEREAS,

Chief Blaser served as Incident Commander during major emergencies and coordinated effectively with local, state, and federal agencies, while also serving as Public Information Officer during critical incidents; and

WHEREAS,

he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentorship by developing officers and firefighters and fostering future leaders within the organization and has provided 30 years of leadership service to the Wisconsin State Firefighters Association Board of Directors, including service as President, Vice President, and Board Member, offering statewide leadership, advocacy, and strategic guidance for the fire service; and

WHEREAS,

Chief Blaser holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration from Southern Illinois University and an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Gateway Technical College and maintains multiple extensive certifications and licensures, including: Wisconsin Certified Firefighter III, Licensed Paramedic, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials Technician, Active Shooter Response Training, National Incident Management System, and Public Information Officer Training; and

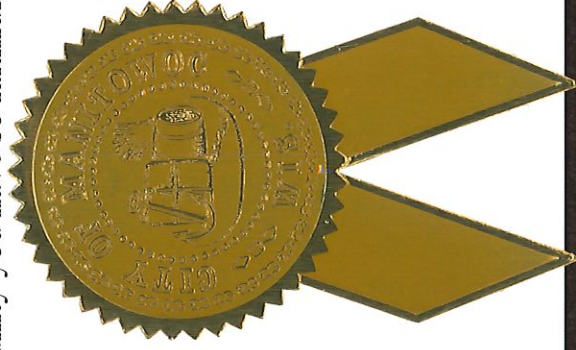
WHEREAS,

he has demonstrated strong community involvement as a youth baseball and football coach and has provided ongoing mentorship to youth and young professionals; and


WHEREAS,

Todd is supported by his wife, Gina, and children, Cody, Madeline, Noah, and Reilly, who have shared in the sacrifices and pride of his distinguished career.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justin M. Nickels, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc, on behalf of the Citizens of the City of Manitowoc, do hereby extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation for Chief Blaser's leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to our community, which will have a lasting and meaningful legacy within both the department and the community you have so faithfully served. Our sincere thanks and best wishes as you enter a well-earned retirement.



Signed and Sealed at City Hall this
18th day of May, Twenty Twenty-Six.


Justin M. Nickels
Mayor of the City of Manitowoc