

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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For immediate release

October 21, 2009

Michael J. Vatter Appointed Fire Chief

City Manager Richard F. Herbek announced today the appointment of Michael J. Vatter as Fire Chief effective November 2, 2009. Formerly a Deputy Fire Chief, Michael Vatter originally retired from the City of Newburgh in 2000 where he served more than 20 years in the Fire Department.

During his service as Deputy Chief, Mike was often charged with overseeing the Department's response to a wide range of fire incidents and emergencies in the City of Newburgh and in our neighboring communities.

After leaving the Newburgh Fire Department, Vatter went on to earn his Law Degree from Pace University.

The Fire Chief position has been vacant since the September 3, 2009 retirement of Chief Christopher Barrett.

“Michael Vatter is uniquely qualified to take leadership of the City of Newburgh Fire Department at this difficult time,” said the City Manager. “He has expertise and an in-depth knowledge of the City of Newburgh as well as valuable experience in the private sector.”

Prior to his return to public service, the new Chief was employed as an attorney by Drake, Loeb, Geller, Kennedy, Gogerty, Gaba & Rodd, PLLC, and Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP, specializing in municipal tort defense and fire related liability cases.

