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## **PRESS RELEASE**

March 15, 2016

### City Council of the City of Katy Approves Ordinance Appointing new Fire Chief

At the City Council meeting last night, the City Council voted to approve an ordinance that appointed Russell W. Wilson as the new Fire Chief for the City of Katy. The approval comes after a five-month recruitment and selection process. In describing the final decision for hiring Mr. Wilson, Mayor Fabol Hughes said that, "Among the many excellent candidates that applied and the final three that were interviewed, Russell was clearly the most highly qualified and best fit for the position. He will bring a wealth of talent to the Fire Department of the City of Katy."

Russell Wilson has 27 years in the fire service and holds a Master of Science in Fire and Emergency Management Administration. He is certified through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection as a Master Firefighter, Fire Instructor Master, Hazardous Materials Response Technician and Field Examiner. As a graduate of the Fire Service Chief Executive Officer program through the Mays Business School at Texas A&M, Russell also possess a Chief Fire Officer designation from the Center of Public Safety Excellence.

During his years of public service, administrative experience and leadership activities, Russell has served as an assistant fire chief, executive board and advisory board member, department lead and is a current instructor for the Texas Fire Officer Program at Texas A&M. He has served as a member of the State Board of Directors Special Olympics Texas, as well as volunteers for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Make-A-Wish Foundation and local toy and food drives for needy children and families.

Russell and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 26 years and have two grown children. They are excited about their move to Katy and his new role as Fire Chief. "I'm looking forward to the professional growth of the Fire Department into a department that will service the needs of the community in the way the citizens of Katy desired to be served," says Russell.

Russell will officially start as the Fire Chief on May 2, 2016.