



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-2336, **Agenda Item #:** 56.

8/27/2026

Posting Language

Approve a resolution confirming the City Manager's appointment of Assistant Fire Chief Tom Vocke as Interim Fire Chief of Austin Fire effective September 1, 2026. Funding: This item has no fiscal impact.

Lead Department

Management Services

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

November 15, 2018 - Council approved Resolution No. 20181115-017 confirming Joel G. Baker as Fire Chief of the Austin Fire Department.

For More Information:

Ramón Batista, Assistant City Manager, 512-974-2200.

Additional Backup Information:

Fire Chief Joel G. Baker is retiring effective August 31, 2026. This action confirms the City Manager's appointment of Assistant Fire Chief Tom Vocke as Interim Fire Chief until a new Fire Chief is confirmed by the City Council and takes office.

Chief Vocke has been with Austin Fire for over 28 years and was appointed to Assistant Chief in May 2023 and to Chief of Staff in April 2026. Prior to his appointment as Chief of Staff, Chief Vocke served in various assignments including Assistant Chief over Operations; Assistant Chief and Battalion Chief over Training, Medical Operations and the Wellness Center; and five years as the City's Fire Marshal.