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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West University Place Appoints James Novak as New Fire Chief

WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE, TX – At its meeting on December 9, the West University Place City Council approved the City Manager’s appointment of Interim Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal James Novak to the position of Fire Chief. The change in leadership takes effect immediately.

“We are excited to have James officially take on the role of Fire Chief,” said City Manager Dave Beach. “His commitment to the community’s safety, coupled with his vast knowledge of fire and emergency medical services makes him the perfect choice to lead the department.”

As Fire Chief, Novak will oversee all fire and emergency medical service operations, emergency management response and strategy, and community outreach initiatives, ensuring the highest level of service for West U residents.

Novak began his career in the fire service in 1994 with the Yoakum Fire Department. While in Yokum, he attended Victoria College and received his paramedic certification.

Upon moving to Houston, Novak joined the West University Place Fire Department in 1996 as a firefighter-paramedic. He became a Lieutenant in 2010 and Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal in 2013. Additionally, in 2015 Novak completed the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy and is designated a Certified Fire Executive. He holds an Associate of Fire Science and Safety Technology and is a certified Fire Inspector and Investigator.

Novak and his wife, Kim, have been married for 23 years and are proud parents to a daughter and two sons.

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