



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 25-087, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the City Manager's Appointment of Daniel Jager as Fire Chief for the City of Homer. City Manager

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Date: September 30, 2026
From: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

Former Fire Chief Mark Kirko resigned from his position in July 2025, and the City began actively advertising for a new Fire Chief. 18 applications were received and 8 appeared to meet the qualifications of the position. Supplemental questions were provided to those 8 and 5 responded. Upon review of those responses, two applicants were provided first interviews by Zoom with an interview panel of department heads. Kenai Fire Chief Jay Teague assisted the panel as a subject matter expert. The review panel recommended Daniel (Dan) Jager for a second in-person interview.

Mr. Jager traveled to Homer for an in-person interview on September 23, 2025. In addition to a lengthy in-person interview with me, Mr. Jager visited Homer Police Department (HPD) where Lt. Browning gave him a tour of the dispatch center and introduced him to Chief Robl and other staff on duty. He then visited the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD), met staff on duty and spent time with Acting Fire Chief Arndt who showed him around the facility and around the City boundaries. After a short break to catch his breath, he came back to the Fire Department with his wife and children and had dinner with the staff and volunteers who were in attendance for their Tuesday night training. Mr. Jager shared with the group about his background and training and his leadership style, and he responded to questions from the group. I also attended the dinner and after it was over, a couple of the volunteers shared positive feedback with me about Mr. Jager. He stayed after dinner, taking time to have one on one conversations with staff and volunteer members who had more questions. In follow-up conversations, HVFD staff and volunteers expressed they are encouraged by their interactions with Mr. Jager.

Mr. Jager is a lifelong Alaskan who started his career as a volunteer fire fighter and worked his way up the ranks as Senior Captain, Lieutenant, and Assistant Fire Chief. He also has extensive experience serving in the roles of Fire Marshal and Fire Investigator/Prevention Officer. He's currently working in Juneau, and has also served in Cordova, Fairbanks/North Pole, Valdez, Anchorage, and in Washington State.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution confirming the City Manager's appointment of Daniel Jager as Fire Chief for the City of Homer.