

**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Peter Zanoni, City Manager



COPY: Executive Team; Johnny Stobbs, Corpus Christi Professional Firefighters' Association President; Mike Markle, Chief of Police; Connie Scott, Nueces County Judge; J.C. Hooper, Nueces County Sheriff; Todd Hunter, State Representative; Chuy Hinojosa, State Senator; Dr. Mark Escamilla, Del Mar College President; Dr. Kelly Miller, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi President/CEO; Hilary Watt, Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council Executive Director; Dom Dominguez, Christus Spohn Health System CEO; Eric Harmon, Driscoll Health System President/CEO; Eric Evans, Corpus Christi Medical Center CEO; Brian McDonald, Refinery Terminal Fire Company President/CEO; Sean Strawbridge, Port of Corpus Christi CEO

SUBJECT: **Staff Announcement**

DATE: January 6, 2023

Fire Chief Robert Rocha will retire from the Corpus Christi Fire Department effective Friday, January 20.

I am appointing Deputy Chief Richie Quintero as Acting Fire Chief effective at 5:00 PM on Friday, January 20.

Chief Rocha was appointed Fire Chief of the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) in December 2011. Before his career in Corpus Christi, Chief Rocha retired from a 28-year career with the Kansas City Fire Department. Upon his appointment as Fire Chief for the City of Corpus Christi, Chief Rocha established a focus on firefighter safety, emergency response, and promoting diversity within the Fire Department.

Throughout his tenure with CCFD, Chief Rocha led several improvements within the Fire Departments and the City organization's responsiveness to emergency operations. Some of his significant accomplishments as the City of Corpus Christi Fire Department's Fire Chief are listed below.

1. Implemented Mayor Guajardo's "Save our Seniors" home COVID vaccination program (which became a statewide model advocated by Governor Greg Abbott)
2. Provided safety during and recovery after Hurricane Harvey
3. Establishment of CCFD's drone program
4. Increase from 11 to 14 front-line medic units
5. Creation of the Nueces County Mutual Aid agreement for fire services

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6. Establishment of the Nueces County Fire Chiefs Association
7. Establishment of the South Texas Fire Chiefs Association
8. Increase Fire Department's sworn authorized compliment from 415 to 446
9. Establishment of the department's AMBUS program
10. Obtained FEMA Type I designation for the Hazardous Materials response program

Please join me in extending a special congratulations and appreciation to Fire Chief Robert Rocha for his leadership and contributions to the Corpus Christi Fire Department and the City of Corpus Christi.

We will conduct a local and national search for the permanent City of Corpus Christi Fire Chief position.