



Mayor's Office

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1126
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Phone 313•224•3400
Fax 313•224•4128
www.detroitmi.gov

November 9, 2023

The Honorable City Council
City of Detroit
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Appointment as Fire Commissioner

Dear Honorable City Council Members:

I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Charles Simms as Fire Commissioner for the City of Detroit, subject to the approval of City Council. Under Article 4 Section 4-111 of the City Charter, if City Council does not disapprove the appointment within 30 days of filing, the appointment is confirmed.

As you know, Commissioner Simms has served in an interim capacity for some time, and his exemplary record of accomplishment during that time – in addition to his 37 years of service to the Department – makes him more than qualified for a permanent appointment.

In recent weeks, the Fire Department has achieved the fastest response time in history for ambulance response to the highest priority calls, reaching a low of seven minutes. By expanding the Department's capabilities and adding contracts with private ambulance providers, the Department has averaged 38 to 40 ambulances on the streets every day, again a record high.

Commissioner Simms has also invested in the long-term health of the Department's workforce, hiring the largest fire academy class yet at 100 new staff, training medical personnel in fire response to allow for a "dual" fire and medical role, and adding free physical and mental health resources for all members. Finally, the Commissioner has built a strong record of community partnerships. These include initiatives to teach fire safety and CPR to community members and to increase preventative fire inspections to reach every school, gas station, and senior apartment building each year.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the Fire Commissioner on his appointment.

Regards,

Michael E. Duggan
Mayor
City of Detroit