



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: November 18, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact: Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Approve Appointment of the Fire Chief

DocuSigned by:

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

Human Resources: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve appointment of Garrett Huff as the County of Santa Barbara Fire Chief, beginning December 8, 2025, at a bi-weekly base salary of \$11,639.44 and with benefits consistent with those received by other appointed Santa Barbara County Department Heads under Resolution No. 25-218; and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) because the recommended actions involve continuing administrative or maintenance activity.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to approve the appointment of Garrett Huff as Santa Barbara County's Fire Chief as of December 8, 2025, following the retirement of Chief Mark Hartwig, who is retiring from the position on December 7, 2025.

Background:

Mr. Huff, currently the Deputy Fire Chief for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, has over 25 years of experience in emergency services, including more than a decade in formal leadership roles.

He was selected following a comprehensive recruitment process that prioritized operational excellence, strategic leadership, and extensive familiarity with the County's fire environment and public safety landscape.

In 2024, Mr. Huff assumed the role of Deputy Fire Chief overseeing Emergency Services including Emergency Medical Services, the Regional Fire Communications Center, and the Support Services Division. He has led complex special projects with local and regional impact, rotated as an Operational Duty Chief, and guided the successful launch of the County's centralized dispatch system. Prior to this role, he served as Division Chief for EMS and Training, Battalion Chief and Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Captain, Fire Engineer/Inspector, and Firefighter/Paramedic. His leadership has spanned every division of the department—training, administration, emergency operations, fire prevention, and dispatch—providing him with a comprehensive understanding of the County's operational needs.

Mr. Huff has held command roles during responses to major wildfires, floods, the Conception Boat tragedy, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He served on the FIRESCOPE Task Force, contributed to statewide standards in incident command and mutual aid, and was a founding member of both the department's Peer Support Team and the FIRESCOPE Behavioral Health Specialist Group. He currently serves as a Governor-appointed member of the California 9-1-1 Advisory Board and Assistant Director of the Cal Chiefs EMS Section. His involvement also includes the Santa Barbara County Incident Management Team and the SubJAC Committee, a labor-management advisory group focused on workforce development and apprenticeship programs. He currently sits on the state-level qualifications approval committee, which oversees credentialing and qualification standards for incident command roles under the California Incident Command Certification System.

Mr. Huff is a certified Chief Officer, POST-certified Peace Officer, and Emergency Medical Technician. He holds an A.S. in Fire Technology, a B.S. in Fire and Emergency Management, and is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration at California State University, Northridge.

Mr. Huff will succeed Fire Chief Mark Hartwig upon his retirement. Chief Hartwig has served since 2019 and leaves a legacy of strategic leadership and operational excellence.

Fiscal and Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no fiscal impacts with this action. The bi-weekly base salary is \$11,639.44. Mr. Huff will receive benefits consistent with those received by other appointed Santa Barbara County Department Heads under Resolution No. 25-218. Costs are already addressed within the department's budget.