



NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION PRESENTED TO KIRK S. KUSHEN FOR THREE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WITH NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

Whereas, Kirk Kushen announced his resignation as Fire Chief of the Newcastle Fire Protection District, having compiled a distinguished record of leadership and accomplishment over 39 years in fire service with such public safety agencies as the Kern County Fire Department, South Bay Fire Department, and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department; and

Whereas, Chief Kushen successfully made the transition from a sophisticated, full-service fire department in Kern County, which has 46 fire stations and more than 600 permanent employees serving more than half a million people over an 8,000 square mile area, to the Newcastle Fire District, the Gem of the Foothills; and

Whereas, as a seasoned professional in the fire service, Chief Kushen brought a solid foundation of experience, education, dedication and motivation to his role as Fire Chief and openly embraced the numerous challenges and opportunities that exist for the success of our district; and

Whereas, over the past three years, he has applied his expertise, insight and familiarity with advanced fire services, training and funding programs to upgrade, modernize and enhance the quality of fire and public safety protection for the residents of both the Newcastle and Placer Hills Fire Protection Districts; and

Whereas, having been confronted upon his arrival in the area with low engine staffing levels, high turnover and attrition rates, and serious budget constraints, Chief Kushen has worked tirelessly to overcome these obstacles and ensure that all of our personnel in both districts receive the training, equipment and other tools necessary to perform their duties safely and efficiently; and

Whereas, his resourceful and well-informed pursuit of grants and funding from other local, state and federal agencies has enabled us to upgrade our vehicles, uniforms and communications equipment while enhancing the overall safety of our workplaces; and

Whereas, the high standards he has set for enhanced fire prevention programs, equipment and training of our personnel was instrumental in improving our fire insurance rating which benefits all the residents and business owners in our community;

Now, therefore, let it be resolved that, the Board of Directors of the Newcastle Fire Protection District thank Chief Kirk Kushen for his transformative leadership of our department and wish him every comfort in his retirement from public service. August 19, 2020

William Kahrl, Chairman

Lawrence Bettencourt, Vice-Chairman

Jonita Elder

Robin Enos

James Heisterkamp