



TOWN OF FREEPORT, MAINE

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ITEM # 167-21 POLICE
CHIEF APPOINTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Freeport Town Council 
FROM: Peter Joseph, Town Manager
DATE: 09/02/21
RE: Nomination of Nathaniel Goodman for appointment as Chief of Police

Freeport Charter Section 3.04(1) requires that the Town Council confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Chief of Police. It is my pleasure to nominate Nathaniel Goodman of Durham for the Council's consideration as the next Chief of Police for the Town of Freeport.

Prior to his temporary appointment as Acting Chief of Police in January of this year, Goodman served the Freeport Police Department for over twenty three years, with fifteen of those years being in the supervisory roles of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Acting Chief. During these times he has supervised and mentored numerous junior officers, many of whom are still with our Department. Through this role, he has played a significant part in building the Department into the respected professional organization that exists today. He is widely respected by Town staff and was unanimously endorsed for the position by the Officers of the Department.

While we did consider a small number of well qualified candidates from outside the Department, it is noteworthy that we saw far fewer interested applicants for the position than when we last advertised for the position of Chief of Police approximately five years ago. This is consistent with the difficulties that other area municipalities have recently faced in the recruitment of Chiefs of Police, with several larger posts going unfilled at this time. I consider Freeport extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and qualified supervisor who is willing to step forward to lead the department.

During the past nine years that I have had the opportunity to supervise Nate, I have found him to be a calm, level headed police supervisor that cares greatly for the community and treats people fairly. These traits have been on display to the public over the past nine months, when he has worked with the citizen group that evolved into the Police Advisory Committee. During this time he has consistently demonstrated his ability to work with people who have varying perspectives on policing, listen to their concerns, and collaborate and communicate effectively with all parties involved. With this type of leadership, differences of opinion can be transformed into productive conversations and educational opportunities for all involved. In my opinion, these are some of the most important traits that a leader can possess, and this factored heavily into my decision.

I hope you will join me in supporting Nate's appointment as the next Chief of Police.