



# Burlington Fire Department



136 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378

(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)

Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387

August 4, 2015

Mayor Miro Weinberger  
City Hall  
149 Church Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Mayor Weinberger:

I am writing to inform you of my intent to retire from the Burlington Fire Department on October 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. After careful consideration I have decided that this is the right time for both my family and me to make this change in our lives. Words alone cannot express how much of an honor it has been for me to serve this City, and the community that I grew up in, for these past 26 years. It is with appreciation to you, the citizens of Burlington, and the men and women of the Burlington Fire Department that I have had this opportunity to do a job that I loved every day.

As I look back on my tenure, it seems appropriate to note that we have accomplished a great deal. We saw the largest turnover of employees in the Department's history, but rose to the challenge and were able to recruit and train new members quickly and effectively. Building efficiencies, repairs, and improvements to all five of the City's fire stations were done on a scale that had never been seen before. This has afforded cost savings, made the stations safer, and more energy efficient. The Department garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding that has gone to improving the safety of our firefighters and the Department's capabilities. The Department's capabilities have been expanded through the purchase of a fourth ambulance, a specialized all-terrain vehicle, and most importantly the upcoming advancement into Paramedicine. We have also seen the City through some difficult times together – the record lake level flooding in 2011, and several other severe weather events and fires. While I am very proud of these accomplishments, it's important to point out that none of them could have been achieved without the commitment, dedication, and hard work displayed by the men and women of the Burlington Fire Department.

No Fire Department can succeed by itself. It cannot be overstated that the support of the Department's personnel, you, the Fire Commission, the City Council, and the Burlington citizenry has been unwavering in their commitment to see that this Department has what it needs to succeed and grow, even through difficult economic times. This support and faith in our Department has been the foundation for the Department's continued successes.

As my career with the Burlington Fire Department comes to an end, I leave with the confidence that the Department will continue to be led by dedicated, motivated, and professional leaders. I believe there is always a benefit when fresh ideas and perspectives are brought to the table in any organization and feel the next individual who steps into the Chief Engineer's role will be able to build upon our achievements.

It has been a distinct privilege to serve as the Chief of the Burlington Fire Department. I have been fortunate to have been a member of one of the noblest of professions and have nothing but respect and pride in the brothers and sisters I have served with and now will leave behind.

In closing, it has been both my honor and pleasure to have served the City of Burlington for the past 26 years, and I look forward to working with you, your team, the Department, and the community during this transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth S. Lasker".

Seth S. Lasker  
Chief Engineer

CC: Burlington Fire Commission