

MEDIA RELEASE

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Costa Mesa hires Tom Arnold as interim fire chief

COSTA MESA, CALIF.—The City of Costa Mesa has hired Tom Arnold—the former deputy fire chief of Newport Beach—as its interim fire chief, City Chief Executive Officer Tom Hatch announced today.

Arnold, a 35-year Costa Mesa resident and 30-year veteran of the Newport Beach Fire Department, will begin work as soon as his background check and health evaluation are completed.

Arnold replaces Interim Chief Kirk Dominic, who served as the head of the Costa Mesa Fire Department for the past year and recently asked to return to field operations.

“I’ve very grateful for the excellent job Kirk has done as interim fire chief for the City and its residents,” Hatch said. “We are also fortunate to have someone of Tom Arnold’s background and caliber to step up and lead our fire department.”

The City hasn’t sought a permanent chief since the Costa Mesa Fire Assn. asked the City last November to explore the viability of outsourcing fire services to the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). In July, the City Council voted to ask other firefighting entities for proposals to provide Costa Mesa with fire services. That process is underway, and a decision on whether to outsource the fire department is expected early next year.

Arnold, 62, worked in a variety of positions for the Newport Beach Fire Department, including firefighter, paramedic, fire captain, battalion chief and, for 15 years, deputy fire chief. In Newport Beach, he managed the Operations Division, which included 300 personnel, five managers, 38 supervisors, including firefighters, paramedics, and lifeguards in more than 40 locations and five separate shift schedules.