

TO: Urbana City Council
FROM: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin
RE: Appointments
DATE: March 8, 2021

I am pleased to submit the following Appointments for your approval:

Deputy Fire Chief – Demond Dade

Demond Dade has been in the fire service with Quincy Fire Department for over 21 years, with 11 years of experience as a Company Officer. In January of 2020, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration; in that role, he created Quincy Fire Department's COVID-19 policies, formed a Joint Task Force to address Civil Unrest Response, and implemented the department's annual training schedule.

He served as President of MABAS Division 44, and is currently a member of the Governor's Fire Fighting Medal of Honor Committee. Demond is also a Field Staff Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois.

He holds an Associate's degree in Applied Fire Science from John Woods College.

Police Lieutenant – James "Cory" Koker

Cory Koker has served as a police officer with the City of Urbana for almost 21 years beginning in June of 2000. He worked as a Patrol Officer until November 2004 at which time he began his service as a Detective and School Resource Officer.

In 2006 Cory moved into the position of Field Training Officer where he trained recruit officers in policy, procedure, and criminal and traffic law.

Cory was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in March of 2012, the position he currently holds, where he supervises the day shift, manages rosters, briefings and trainings, and assists in the preparation of the department budget. He also serves as the Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator and the Conflict Management Instructor.

In 2014 Corey received the Life Saving Award and in 2017 he received the Heroism Award.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from MacMurray College and has served as an Adjust Instructor in Advanced Verbal Defense & Influence at the University of Illinois Police Training Institute since 2015.

City Attorney – David Wesner (Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley)

Dave Wesner has over two twenty-five years of legal experience representing various municipalities and local governments in all aspects of their government and affairs. His areas of expertise include advising elected and appointed officers and staff, drafting ordinances and resolutions, drafting and reviewing contracts and agreements, advising on matters involving the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act, collective bargaining, personnel matters, prosecuting municipal ordinance violations, collection of delinquent accounts, reviewing contracts and other documents, and conducting administrative hearings, and real estate matters.

Dave currently practices at Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley and has worked for the City of Danville as Corporation Counsel and as head of their Legal Department from 2008 through 2019.

Plan Commission – term ending June 30, 2022

Debarah McFarland

Debarah McFarland is a multi-decade resident of Urbana and is the Founder/CEO of Dream Girls Academy, Inc., a locally-based non-profit organization aimed at providing leadership and structure for females in sixth grade and above to become positive and responsible women. She is on the Executive Board of the NAACP of Champaign County and serves on the Program Planning Team of the Urbana Park District. Debarah lives in the neighborhood where she grew up, and hopes to help bring “life and opportunity” back to her Dr. Ellis Drive neighborhood.