



City of Chattanooga

Ron Littlefield, Mayor

To: Chief David Brooks
From: Mayor Ron Littlefield
Subject: Professional Conduct
Date: March 16, 2010

I am deeply disappointed that your behavior has seriously jeopardized the public standing and reputation of the office of Fire Marshall.

When you were named to the position that you now hold, it was my hope that you would be a positive example and a role model for our young people. With your own professional achievement and attainment of significant rank at a relatively youthful age, it was believed to be quite likely that you would be a strong future candidate for Chief of the Chattanooga Fire Department. Now, all of that seems out of reach.

I won't attempt to preach to you on the sanctity of marriage or the importance of loyalty to friends and coworkers – that might better be left to other counselors. However, it is troubling that you could allow yourself to stray so far from such commitments and that you failed to recognize how a lack of strong values and strength of character could drastically affect your professional life. Further, I cannot overlook the fact that your personal behavior was a serious distraction from your assigned responsibilities. The number and frequency of your emails plus your excessive and rather juvenile use of text messaging and transmission of revealing photographs illustrates for me that you lack the level of maturity required for the position that you hold.

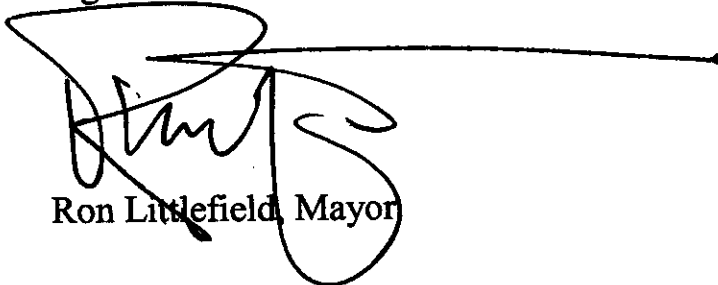
You were wise to confine most of the sexually-charged digital traffic to your own phones and computers, but the time involved with such activities and the admitted meeting carried out while on duty are sufficient cause for corrective action. I do acknowledge your repentant

attitude. While some might wish to argue that your moral lapse is none of the city's business, it should be obvious to you (as it is to me) that your duty is more than a simple 8 to 5 responsibility. You are in a senior professional position in a very public office involving presentations to groups of citizens – including children. Your behavior – especially while in uniform and driving your official vehicle – is absolutely a matter of public trust.

Considering the evidence, your high profile position and the nature of the offenses, I have concluded that you are guilty of conduct unbecoming a public employee under terms and definitions of Chattanooga Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Chattanooga City Code. Accordingly, your appointment to the office of Fire Marshall is hereby revoked and you are returned to the previous rank of Captain.

You have been given a hearing but your position is an executive appointment, so the opportunity to argue or appeal further is limited. Be further advised that any additional misbehavior or lapses in judgment affecting your job will result in a potential for further action including suspension, demotion or dismissal. Again, this has been a very painful experience for all concerned and I hope that this ends the matter. I wish you the best as you continue your career.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Littlefield', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive. Below the signature, the name 'Ron Littlefield, Mayor' is printed in a standard font.

Ron Littlefield, Mayor