



Remarks from Fire Chief Kerska

July 30, 2018

Mr. Mayor, City council members, teammates, friends and family,

I am honored and humbled to stand before you as the Fire Chief of our great community. For Tina and I Rochester is our home and we look forward to being a part of the growth and changes ahead for Rochester. I have travelled all over the world and there is no other place where I would rather be.

For Tina and I, the road to this moment has been quite an adventure and many of the people that have helped us on our journey are here with us today.

Many from my fire department family, my army family, my city family and my REAL family have come here to wish me well and I am honored that you all took the time to join me here today.

My new city family has made me feel very welcome in this new position and the last month has been a blur.

To the citizens of Rochester--- YOU HAVE A GREAT FIRE DEPARTMENT!! Integrity, Courage and Pride are their values and they act on these values while serving you every day. Not only are the men and women of your fire department dedicated and talented, but most importantly, they are caring people who are driven to help others. They took their oath, just as I have-- to protect the citizens of Rochester. For Rochester fire Integrity, Courage, Pride, are not merely words—They are a call to action. The men and women of Rochester Fire are committed to a cause greater than themselves—This community.

I am grateful to share this moment with so many of the people who have made me who I am. To all my friends and family--- thank you—thank you for everything you have taught me and all the wonder in life we have shared together.