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888 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

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FACSIMILE: (781) 239-1043  
TELEPHONE: (781) 431-1019 x2201  
[WWW.WELLESLEYMA.GOV](http://WWW.WELLESLEYMA.GOV)  
MEGHAN C. JOP  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**Policy Review & Mentoring are Goals for Wellesley's New Interim Fire Chief David Soar**

**August 2, 2023 (Wellesley, MA)** – The Town of Wellesley's new Interim Fire Chief David Soar has a resume full of experience and is "very familiar" with his new community, having worked for the Town of Weston for more than 14 years. Soar, who retired in 2022 as Chief of the Weston Fire Department, was appointed by the Wellesley Select Board in July 2023 as interim fire chief and started his year-long job this week.

"Working in Weston is very similar to Wellesley. While the Town is larger with more people and more calls, both communities expect and should receive the very best service we can provide," he said. "Wellesley has a great fire department with talented individuals. In the coming year, I'll be reviewing Wellesley Fire Department (WFD) policies and procedures to help improve that service even more. I'm looking forward to leading this group and sharing my expertise to help everyone there become the best they can be."

A Massachusetts native, Soar grew up in a firefighting family and from a very young age was interested in fire service and drawn to helping people. He began his professional career in 1978 as an auxiliary fire fighter in Acton, working his way up the ranks in that department, while also providing on-call fire and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) services in Maynard and Boxborough. In 2000, he was hired as Chief of the Stow Fire Department where he successfully built the department from a small call force to a 24/7 operation.

Soar was hired as Weston Fire Chief in 2008 and used his skills to help improve the operation and service of that department, setting up a succession plan for department officers, updating and rebuilding the fire station, and guiding the department through the COVID pandemic. "Chief Soar's experience in mentoring younger fire fighters and developing leaders from within is key as Wellesley works to develop a detailed fire department succession plan," said Wellesley Executive Director Meghan Jop. "Since he already knows so much about the Town and WFD, we can get to work right away."

Earlier this summer, Wellesley paused its search for a permanent replacement for former WFD Chief Rick DeLorie, who retired in January 2023. According to Jop, hiring Interim Chief Soar for a one year contract gives the Town time to thoroughly review department operations before resuming that search. Nat Brady, a 33-year WFD officer, served as interim chief until Soar took over.

**About the Wellesley Fire Department**

Wellesley Fire Rescue Department protects the lives, property, and environment in the Town of Wellesley and surrounding communities. The department has two fire stations, Station 1 on Central Street and WFD Headquarters on Route 9, and 57 full-time employees. WFD also supervises Cataldo Paramedics, providing advanced medical care and emergency transport. In addition, the department develops public education and fire prevention programs for the community and performs regular fire inspections. For more information, go to [www.wellesleyma.gov/fire](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/fire)



*Wellesley Fire Department Interim Chief David Soar*