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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MAYOR KISS ANNOUNCES FIRE CHIEF APPOINTEE

Burlington Deputy Chief Seth Lasker Selected After Interview Process

February 9, 2011 - Burlington, VT. Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss announced today that he has selected Seth Lasker as his appointee to serve as the City's new Fire Chief. Mr. Lasker has a twenty-one year career with the Burlington Fire Department. He was hired as a firefighter in 1989 and through a series of promotions has served the Department as a Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and most recently, Deputy Chief.

Mr. Lasker was selected after a two-day interview process on Monday and Tuesday of this week involving two interview panels. In addition to the Mayor, the interview panels included members of the Fire Commission, Burlington fire fighters and staff, representatives from Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, Burlington Police Department, and the Department of Public Works, as well as representatives from Fletcher Allen Health Care, the Burlington Business Association, the Islamic Society of Vermont, and UVM's Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services. The search process was initiated internally.

Mayor Kiss met with Mr. Lasker this morning as the final interview in the process and to offer him the appointment. "I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Seth Lasker to serve as Burlington's new Fire Chief," said Mayor Kiss. "I appreciate the time and commitment of everyone involved in the broad-based interview process that led to Seth's selection. Seth has extensive experience and proven skills with Burlington and the Department – he will serve the people and City of Burlington well."

"I am honored to be chosen as the City's Fire Chief and to serve the people and community of Burlington," said Mr. Lasker. "I look forward to working with the Mayor, City Council, Fire

Commission, other City departments, the men and women of the Fire Department and the public on our shared commitment to provide quality and responsive public safety services to the City.”

“We had a good and thorough process to appoint a new Fire Chief,” said Mark Saba, Fire Commission Chair. “As Chair of the Fire Commission, I’m excited that Seth has been appointed by the Mayor as the new Chief. It’s especially valuable that Seth has worked his way through the ranks of the Burlington Fire Department and is being promoted from within. I’m sure he will have the support of Fire Department staff as well as the Commission, and that this will be a seamless transition from the leadership of Chief O’Neil.”

Mayor Kiss intends to submit Mr. Lasker’s appointment for approval at the next City Council meeting on February 14. Mayor Kiss will also provide an opportunity for the Council’s Public Safety Committee to meet with Mr. Lasker.