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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Abilene Announces City Secretary

ABILENE, Texas - The City of Abilene is pleased to announce that **Candelario "Cande" Flores Jr.** has been named the next Fire Chief effective Friday, June 1, 2018.

"Cande is a dedicated and values driven leader," said City Manager Robert Hanna. "I believe he will be able to work with staff to continue the tradition of excellence that is the Abilene Fire Department."

Flores has been with the Abilene Fire Department for 26 years and is currently serving as one of the Deputy Fire Chiefs. During his time with AFD, he has occupied the rank of a Chief Officer for the past 5 years, 1 of those as a Battalion Chief, Captain from 2006-2015 and Lieutenant from 2004-2006.

He has an Associates of Applied Sciences in Fire Technology from Cisco College and several professional certifications to include: Paramedic Certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, EMS Coordinator Certification from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Master Firefighter, Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor II, Hazardous Materials Technician and Field Examiner Certification all from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, as well as a certified CPR Instructor from the American Heart Association.

"Quote from Cande."

Flores' appointment comes as Chief Larry Bell retires on Thursday. He too has expressed confidence in Flores' leadership.

"Chief Flores is a good fit for the position of Fire Chief of the Abilene Fire Department," said Bell. "He brings the strengths and qualities needed to continue moving the department forward, combining a confident leadership style with a strong Fire and EMS background. I congratulate Cande and wish him the very best as he leads a great Fire Department."

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