



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICE  
Office of the Chief**



**JUSTIN ELICKER**  
*Mayor*

**JOHN ALSTON**  
*FIRE CHIEF*

***161 Years of Dedicated Service***

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**Date: June 27, 2023**

**Re: The Position/Title of Firefighter Paramedic - Lateral**

**Greetings Honorable Tyisha Walker-Meyers,**

It is my fervent hope this message finds you well. It is the purpose of this letter to request approval from the Board of Alders to create the title of Firefighter Paramedic – Lateral in the New Haven Fire Department. Thank you, for allowing my team to present this to your leadership team recently. There is a nationwide shortage of Paramedics. Many departments find themselves in our position.

Our need for this position is to bolster our ranks in the Firefighter Paramedic ranks. Commonly, we lose our Paramedics in one of three ways: *1) They drop their paramedic license after 10 years serving in that capacity; 2) They get promoted to a rank that no longer performs Paramedic work; 3) They retire from service.*

Due to our shortage of Paramedics, we often find ourselves ordering members in or holding them over to cover another shift. With the nature of their work, I am concerned for their mental and physical well-being.

This position will not have any financial impact on our budget.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Alston, Chief

cc: NHFD Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regina Rush-Kittle, Chief Administrative Officer