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**Joseph C. Hicks Framingham Fire Chief,
To Retire March 8, 2020**

Framingham, MA – Framingham Fire Chief Joseph C. Hicks has announced his intention to retire on March 8, 2020. Chief Hicks has been the Fire Department Chief since 2016. His retirement will close over a 31 year firefighting career that began on August 8, 1988.

Chief Hicks rose through fire department ranks to become one of five Deputy Chiefs in 2011. He has worked as the Department's Fire Marshall during much of that time with responsibilities for fire prevention and education, code enforcement, and plan review, as well as fire investigations. Chief Hicks' experience includes serving as the department's training coordinator, safety officer, EMS officer, dive rescue team leader and tactical medical unit team leader.

"Serving as Framingham's Fire Chief has been a privilege and an honor," said Fire Chief Hicks. "I come from a family of firefighters. You might say it's in my blood. I will miss it but I am confident in the department's leadership team. I look forward to spending more time with my family."

"Chief Hicks has served Framingham for more than three decades, and the City is safer because of his leadership, contributions, and dedication," said Mayor Spicer. "His passion for safety leaves an indelible mark on the department."

The City will begin a search for a permanent Chief in the coming weeks. Meantime, Assistant Fire Chief Michael Dutcher will continue in his role as Acting Chief.

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