

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**CONGRATULATING FIRE CHIEF PAUL SHATRAW ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER  
NEARLY FOUR DECADES OF EXEMPLARY AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE  
CITIZENS OF WOONSOCKET**

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Phillips, J. Brien, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,  
Chippendale, Craven, Messier, Kennedy, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: April 06, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Chief Paul Shatraw began his distinguished firefighting and public service  
2 career at the young age of 16, serving as a volunteer with the North Smithfield Fire Department.  
3 He joined the Woonsocket Fire Department in 1986, and over the ensuing three decades, he  
4 steadily rose through the ranks thanks to his tireless work ethic and strong leadership skills; and

5           WHEREAS, Prior to being named Woonsocket Chief, he served as a Lieutenant of  
6 Rescue, Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Deputy Chief, and was ultimately named Chief in 2014;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Chief Shatraw took the helm during trying times for the City of  
9 Woonsocket, as it was facing the possibility of bankruptcy. He got to work immediately and  
10 brought \$4 million into the Department in much-needed grant money, which helped to establish  
11 the City's Emergency Operations Center, a state-of-the-art alarm system for each station, new  
12 personal protective equipment for every member of the Department, and new portable radios and  
13 self-contained breathing apparatus; and

14           WHEREAS, Another important priority for Chief Shatraw was to enhance public safety  
15 in Woonsocket by replacing the Department's aging equipment. Under his watch and guidance,  
16 the Department was able to add four new pumping engines, one ladder, three rescues, a fireboat  
17 and other vehicles. Chief Shatraw has also lent his expertise and leadership skills to the City's  
18 response to the pandemic and organizing vaccination clinics; and

19           WHEREAS, Chief Shatraw has always been involved in community and civic affairs. He

1 served as the President of the Greater Woonsocket Fire Chiefs Association, as the Assistant EMA  
2 Director in Woonsocket, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs  
3 Association, and as a Governor's appointee to the State Fire Training Council; now, therefore be  
4 it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
6 congratulates Fire Chief Paul Shatraw on his retirement after nearly four decades of exemplary  
7 and devoted service to the citizens of Woonsocket. We furthermore wish him continued success  
8 in his new position with CVS managing their emergency response teams; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Woonsocket Fire Department Chief Paul  
11 Shatraw.

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