

Resolution No. 32

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Resolutions

Re: Censure of Fire Chief Kevin Robinson

1 WHEREAS, The Town Council hired Kevin
2 Robinson in February 2018, to the position of Interim
3 Fire Chief for the Town of East Greenwich, Rhode
4 Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson was selected by the
6 Town Manager through an out-of-state employment
7 head hunting company, Municipal Resources
8 Incorporated; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson had been a past
10 member of the IAFF and the former Fire Chief of
11 Marshfield, Massachusetts for many years; and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson has previously held
13 the position of President of the Fire Chiefs
14 Association of Massachusetts and currently holds the
15 position of Treasurer; and

16 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson supported and
17 recommended that the Town re-hire the former
18 embattled Fire Chief Peter Henrikson as his interim
19 Deputy Chief, with full knowledge that IAFF Local
20 3328 had previously taken a no confidence vote
21 against Chief Henrikson; and

22 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson has engaged in
23 retaliatory action against members of IAFF Local
24 3328, specifically President William Perry by way of
25 threatening him with discipline and termination for
26 engaging in lawful and protected speech as the head
27 of the union; and

28 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson suspended President
29 Perry; and

30 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson's actions have
31 resulted in numerous grievances within a four month
32 period, as well as numerous arbitrations, unfair labor
33 practice charges, and lawsuits; and

34 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson is supporting and
35 promoting, along with the Town Manager and Town
36 Council, the crafting of anti-union policies; and

37 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson is supportive of
38 reduced staffing within the Fire Department and the
39 browning out of companies; and

40 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson is supportive of
41 legal court action against IAFF Local 3328 regarding
42 the unilateral changing from a four platoon, forty-
43 two-hour work schedule in accordance with the
44 Collective Bargaining Agreement, to a three platoon,
45 fifty-six-hour work schedule; and

46 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson is supportive
47 of the restructuring of the Fire Department by laying
48 off fire fighters, eliminating an entire platoon,
49 privatizing EMS services and/or utilizing
50 volunteer/on-call fire fighters in place of IAFF Local
51 3328 members; and

52 WHEREAS, Chief Robinson's actions have
53 demoralized Local 3328 members and negatively
54 affected labor relations within the Town's Fire
55 Department; therefore be it

56 RESOLVED, That the International Association
57 of Fire Fighters formally censure Fire Chief Kevin
58 Robinson; and be it further

59 RESOLVED, That the International Association
60 of Fire Fighters notify Chief Kevin Robinson, all
61 locals of the International Association of Fire
62 Fighters, the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Association,

63 the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, the
64 Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, the
65 Governor of Massachusetts, Speaker of the House
66 and Senate President of the Massachusetts General
67 Court, Municipal Resources Incorporated, the Town
68 Council of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, Speaker of
69 the House and Senate President of the Rhode Island
70 General Assembly, the Office of the Governor for the
71 State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island League
72 of Cities and Towns.

Submitted by: Local 3328, East Greenwich Fire Fighters
Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters,
A-38

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt
CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted Unanimously