



To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

From: Aimee R. New, Fire Chief

Date: March 18, 2019

Re: Introduction of Firefighter Intern Colby Benz, Ian Crauthers, and Part-time Fire Engineer Joel Teran.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No action is needed on this item. Please welcome Firefighter Interns Colby Benz, Ian Crauthers and Part-time Fire Engineer Joel Teran to the City of Sonora.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Sonora tested for the classification of Firefighter Intern. Both Colby and Ian successfully completed all related testing and requirements for this position, including an extensive background investigation, and medical testing before being appointed to the position. Joel was hired with the City of Sonora as an Intern Firefighter in 2014, completed the program, and remained on with the department as a Volunteer firefighter until completing his driver operator task book and becoming a part-time Fire Engineer.

**DISCUSSION:**

Introductions are attached.

## **Colby Christopher Benz**

Born in Sun Valley, ID

Graduated from the Community School class of 2011

Graduated from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO with a bachelor in Interpersonal Communications and a minor in American history.

Colby was always interested and committed to working in public service so in High School he began by working for a company called SPEAR Tactical, which facilitates training for special warfare groups in Idaho. He continued to work for SPEAR Tactical in the summers between school and volunteered for the Forest Service on a trail building crew. On his days off, he raced road bikes and was able to compete at junior nations on two occasions, qualifying for the Junior National Cycling Development Camp in Boise, ID. At the end of his racing career, Colby was on the Audi Cycling team.

After graduating college, Colby moved back to Idaho and began working for the Sun Valley Police department. He earned his Idaho Intermediate POST certificate. After two and a half years of working with SVPD, Colby wanted to better serve my community by adjusting my career path and becoming a firefighter.

In July of 2018, he moved to Twain Harte and enrolled into the Columbia College Fire Academy, which he successfully graduated in the fall of 2018. Colby was awarded the Firefighter's Firefighter award at the graduation ceremony.

During his time at Columbia College, Colby completed his EMR and CPR training. His is currently enrolled in the EMT class. This year Colby will graduate with a second degree in Fire Sciences.

His girlfriend Makena Clark will be pinning his badge.

## **Ian Lee Crauthers**

Born in Sonora, CA

During elementary school he was on the motherlode gun club trap team where he won a State trophy as an individual and placed second with his squad.

Ian played football every year of high school, and was on the academic honor roll all four Years. During his time at Summerville high school, Ian received an EMR and CPR certification. He graduated from Summerville High School class of 2018.

Ian enrolled at Columbia College right out of high school. He finished the accredited Firefighter 1 academy in the fall and is now working on his EMT. Ian hopes to finish his Associates degree in Fire Technology.

Ian has worked for his Dad's construction company for several years and enjoys working with his hands.

He hopes to one day become a Firefighter and start his own construction company.

On his days off Ian enjoys hunting, fishing, and being in the outdoors.

His parents Lance and Debra Crauthers will be pinning his badge.

## **Joel Teran**

Joel Teran was born and raised in Alameda County, California. While in High School, Joel became interested in the Fire Service and found his way into the Fremont Fire Explorer program at the age of 17, and he has not turned back. After graduating from Kennedy High School in Fremont, he attended Chabot College, where he completed his Fire Academy and obtained his Emergency Medical Technician certification.

Joel was drawn to Tuolumne County at the age of 19, when he started his fire service career as a Reserve Firefighter for Groveland Community Service District. From there, he became an Intern Firefighter with the Sonora City Fire Department and remained in this position for a year. Joel reclassified to a Volunteer with Sonora City when he was hired as an EMT with the Emergency Department at Sonora Regional Medical Center, and on the Ambulance for Manteca District Ambulance Company in Tuolumne County.

After developing his skills as both an EMT and a Firefighter, Joel obtained a Firefighter position with the Angel's Camp City Fire Department. Two years later, after hard work and dedication, he was promoted to Engineer.

Throughout the developments of his career, Joel maintained his Volunteer Firefighter status with Sonora City, with the intent of one day working towards the Engineer rank and I am proud to say that he has completed the task book and testing to promote to part-time Engineer with the City of Sonora.