

February 20, 2010

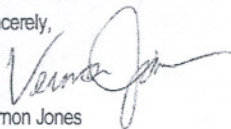
To Whom It May Concern:

It is a privilege to recommend David Foster. When I first hired Chief Foster in 2003 in DeKalb County, the 9<sup>th</sup> busiest fire and rescue department in the nation, the department was running below national standards in response times at approximately 10 minutes and our staffing over time budget was far greater than desired. With this type of circumstance, and such a huge department, many people would not take such a job. What would be considered a daunting task by many was a formidable challenge he strived for and was well within the scope of his abilities.

Over time, I gained respect for Chief Foster and his ability to get the job done well, efficiently and thoroughly, regardless of the magnitude of the task. He systematically and successfully merged troubled EMS and Fire Departments into one world class, award winning Fire Rescue Department without creating deficits in other areas and departments across the County. He maintained the overall safety and welfare of the community as his main goal and the objectives of the county as his outline for success. With this in mind, he reduced the annual over time budget by over \$2 million dollars and reduced response time to 5 minutes.

Chief Foster has an inherent need to do the right thing. He exposed himself to sniper fire in 2005 to rescue a fellow police officer. Regrettably, the officer had already been killed, but Chief Foster didn't know this and emerged with his deceased brother from the facility. He was awarded the 2006 DeKalb County Medal of Honor for this selfless act of service. This is the very type of character and integrity any Department would be privileged to have as their leader. The fact that he also happens to be an incredibly capable manager of a large diverse Department, makes him your best candidate for the position. If I had the opportunity to hire David Foster today, I would do so immediately

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vernon Jones", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Vernon Jones