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NAEMT Elections Committee and Board of Directors:

This is a letter of recommendation for Chief Christopher Way for the position of "Director" on the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians Board of Directors. Chris is an exceptional gentleman and I highly recommend him without reservation.

I first met Chris when we worked together at the Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust (MAST) in Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri in 1995. MAST was a high-performing EMS service that operated under the Public Utility Model and was recognized as one of the top services in the country. Chris was a very polite young man and EMS provider who worked in the field and helped with the start-up on the Kansas side of the state line. His manners were and are quite impressive. We were not only coworkers - - we also became good friends.

Chief Way fit in from "day one." His pleasant personality, his ability to see the big picture from a strategic level, and his outstanding EMS and "people" skills set him apart and above others on the leadership scale. Chris is a very humble man and that became even more apparent when as his career progressed. At the management level, he was considered a "fast mover" on the promotion track and there was no doubt as to his future as a leader in whatever field he chose. Public Safety is fortunate to have Chris as one of its premier leaders. If there is any question about Chris' leadership abilities, all one has to do is ask a member of his department. He does not hesitate to choose the harder right over the easier wrong. His ethical, moral, and performance standards are second to none and he views his people as his most precious resource when leading his agency and in all aspects of his life.

After forty years interspersed between the Fire Service, the military, and Emergency Medical Services, I find Chris' election to the NAEMT Board of Directors critical to the success of NAEMT and the EMS profession. His honesty, tireless work ethic, selfless service, and leadership abilities are second to none and exactly what is needed in our leaders. In addition, he doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit" as demonstrated by his successes. No one is better at talking with legislators on Capitol Hill than Chris. His ability to lobby for EMS and talk with legislators is truly unmatched.

I very highly recommend Chief Christopher Way for a Director's seat on the NAEMT Board of Directors. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at the above number or at bchlapek@marc.org.

Very Respectfully,

Ben D. Chlapek
Public Safety Training Coordinator
EFO, CFO, CEMSO, MPA, MS, NREMT-P

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