

## **Resolution No. 25**

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Resolutions**

#### **Re: Censure of Fire Chief Timothy Butler**

1           WHEREAS, the St. Paul Fire Department serves  
2           approximately 300,000 citizens of the Capital city of  
3           St. Paul, Minnesota; and

4           WHEREAS, IAFF Local 21 is tasked with  
5           representing over 400 members and is the largest  
6           local in the state of Minnesota; and

7           WHEREAS, the Fire Fighters of St. Paul Local  
8           21 are proud to serve the citizens of our great capital  
9           city; and

10          WHEREAS, the Fire Chief serves as the highest  
11          ranking fire officer with authority to oversee and  
12          direct all fire department functions within the  
13          jurisdiction of the City of St. Paul; and

14          WHEREAS, Fire Chief Timothy Butler has  
15          served as the fire chief for the city of St. Paul from  
16          2007 to the present time; and

17          WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler worked in the  
18          dispatch center before becoming Fire Chief and  
19          attended a recruit academy just to understand what it  
20          is like to be a fire fighter; and

21          WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler has adopted a  
22          hostile and aggressive tone when dealing with IAFF  
23          Local 21; and

24          WHEREAS, only after a Work Place Conduct  
25          Investigation into the unfair treatment of Local 21  
26          President Michael Smith was completed did Fire  
27          Chief Butler apologize to President Smith; and

28          WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler has used his  
29          authority to remove fire fighters from street

30 operations into un-funded special duty assignments  
31 while understaffing companies on the street and has  
32 browned-out Engine 13 for over 5 years; and

33 WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler continues to be  
34 an anti-union chief and has held union involvement  
35 against Local 21 leaders; and

36 WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler has taken actions  
37 in an apparent attempt to divide the membership of  
38 Local 21; and

39 WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler's budget  
40 decisions in recent years has had negative  
41 implications on response time and the safety of the  
42 citizens of St. Paul; and

43 WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler did not respond  
44 to the hospital in support of the rank and file when  
45 Shane Clifton, our Local 21 brother, collapsed in  
46 cardiac arrest while on duty at the fire station and  
47 decided to stay at headquarters instead of providing  
48 support to Local 21 members working on Medic 14,  
49 Medic 10 and Rescue Squad 2, who worked  
50 feverishly in an attempt to resuscitate Brother  
51 Clifton, and Fire Chief Butler was noticeably absent  
52 when Fire Fighter Shane Clifton was pronounced  
53 dead at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, therefore failing  
54 the members of Local 21 when we needed a leader  
55 the most; and

56 WHEREAS, Fire Chief Butler's divisive style  
57 of management has brought the morale of the  
58 membership to an all-time low; therefore be it

59 RESOLVED, That the International Association  
60 of Fire Fighters will join with St. Paul Fire Fighters  
61 Local 21 to censure St. Paul Fire Chief Timothy  
62 Butler and in doing so, Fire Chief Butler will be

63 notified of our disappointment in him as our Fire  
64 Chief; and be it further  
65 RESOLVED, That the General President of the  
66 International Association of Fire Fighters, or his  
67 designee, shall disseminate notices of this censure to  
68 all IAFF affiliates and the International Association.  
69 of Fire Chiefs.

Submitted by: Local 21, St. Paul, MN

Cost Estimate: None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**CONVENTION ACTION:**