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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CITY OF BREA PRESS RELEASE**

**SUBJECT:** City of Brea Hires Interim Fire Chief to Lead Brea Fire Department

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**BREA, Calif.** – Brea proudly announces the hiring of George Avery as the City’s Interim Fire Chief. Avery will join the City’s Executive Team on Monday, June 20, 2022, filling a vacancy as the Brea Fire Department transitions to a Brea-only fire command staffing model.

Avery brings over 25 years of fire service experience to the City of Brea. Prior to retiring, Avery was the Fire Chief for the City of San Bernardino, a 200-member department. He oversaw Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Investigations, Fire Prevention, Hazmat, Airport Operations, Fire Dispatch and Fire Operations. Previous to being Fire Chief, Avery also served as Division Chief, Battalion Chief, Training Captain, and Fire Captain. Most recently, Avery worked as the Interim Fire Marshal for the City of Redlands, managing fire prevention personnel, conducting plan checks and fire inspections, handling wildland vegetation management, and working to approve new construction and tenant improvements. Avery holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration from Grand Canyon University.

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As Interim Fire Chief for the City of Brea, Avery will lead the Brea Fire Department, a full-service fire agency. The department provides 24-hour emergency response to a wide variety of critical situations, including fires, explosions, hazardous materials incidents, medical emergencies, accidents, and miscellaneous public assistance requests. In addition, the department operates a very active Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Program, which provides for fire inspections, hazardous process permitting, fire code enforcement, public education, and business emergency planning in accordance with the California Code of Regulations. “I am looking forward to working with George,” said Brea City Manager Bill Gallardo. “The excellent skills and experience he offers will add value to our organization and benefit Brea’s community.”

Earlier this year, the Brea City Council decided to terminate the fire department command share agreement between the cities of Brea and Fullerton. That ended a more than ten-year partnership that helped both cities recover from an economic downturn in 2008.

For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at 714-990-7711.

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