

TOWN OF VERNON

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New Chief Medical Officer Begins Work Overseeing Vernon's Emergency Medical Service

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Katie McGray began work Monday as Vernon's Chief Medical Officer. In that role, she will oversee the Town of Vernon Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Division.



Katie McGray

McGray brings to the position a decade of experience, including front line work as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic, as a leader and as a trainer. She also assisted in the creation of a critical incident stress management team for first responders.

"Katie's diverse experience in EMS made her a top candidate for the position and we welcome her to the Town of Vernon," Mayor Dan Champagne said.

McGray joined American Medical Response in 2012 and since 2020 has worked as a paramedic field training officer. In that role she assisted, trained and supervised numerous EMTs and paramedics. She is also certified in critical incident stress management.

"Katie is the Town of Vernon's first ever chief medical officer and this new role is part of our master plan for enhancing EMS services for residents and our mutual aid partners," Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director Michael Purcaro said. "She is

part of a high-performance team of public safety professionals and will work closely with our new Fire Administrator, the chief-level officers of the Vernon Fire and Police departments on our comprehensive EMS services."

In 2022, the Town of Vernon enhanced the EMS Division by hiring eight fulltime EMTs to staff the busiest shifts and purchased new ambulances. McGray oversees more than 30 EMTs in the EMS Division.

In this leadership role, she will also work across multiple town departments, including the Vernon Public Schools, and with community groups to enhance health and wellness.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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