Hills fire chief heads for stint in Washington, D.C.

...Farmington Hills Fire Chief Rich Marinucci is going on loan, but repayment to the community will include interest and more....Tm coming back," said Marinucci, who has been chief for 14 years...This is where I belong."

...Marinucci will go on a six-month leave to serve as senior adviser to the director of the Federal Emergency Management Authority. In the interim, Deputy Chief Peter Baldwin will serve as acting chief.

...Instead of moving, Marinucci will commute to Washington, D.C., which is one of the conditions of the loan arrangement. The national assignment follows Marinucci's term as president of the Internation.

al Association of Fire Chiefa last year.

That highly wishle role led FEMA to tap him to help upgrade U.S. National Fire Administration and National Fire Academy programs and training.

And training.

Marinucci, 44, initially turned down the federal assignment because he didn't want to leave his family. FEMA officials continued to seek him out during the past five menths.

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E 'By taking this on a temporary basis, there are no hidden agendas. I have no other intentions except to have a criti-cal look at the existing programs.'

Richard Marinucci

—Hills fire chief

"They said whatever you need, we'll make it work," Marinucci said. Every time I came up with an excuse, they tried to come up with an accommodation to make

they tried to come up with an accommodation to make it work.

"It's just being in the right place at the right time. It's been very flattering. I've been humbled in just them officing me the position."

FEMA will reimburse the city for Marinucci's salary and benefits for the six-month term. He'll work in Washington, D.C., but fly home and use his office in Fire Station No. 6.

The review of training and programs is in response to a blue ribbon recommendation calling for an overhaul. Marinucci will make suggestions to update those programs.

grams.

"By taking this on a temporary basis, there are no hidden agendas," Marinucci said. "I have no other intentions except to have a critical look at the existing

intentions except to have a critical root at the examina-programs.

Meanwhile, he'll still help prepare the upcoming Hills Fire Depart-ment budget and keep tabs on labor negotiations with the firefight-

Farmington Observer

ers' union. Baldwin will oversee day-to-day department operations



Stint: Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci will spend six months in Washington, D.C., working for the Federal Emergency Management Authority.

"He'll have his hands full no doubt because he won't have a good deputy chief like I have," Marinucci said. "If he just happens to be in the office when the alarm rings, federal work or not, Marinucci said, 'I'm going, I'm not going to miss a fire."



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