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## STATEMENT FROM IAFF GENERAL PRESIDENT HAROLD SCHAITBERGER ON ELECTION OF JOE BIDEN AS PRESIDENT

"As the results of this historic election become clear, our nation is stronger – with Joe Biden as our president-elect.

"As president of the United States, Joe Biden will continue to be the strongest and most influential voice for hard-working Americans, including fire fighters and their families, just as he has been throughout his entire career.

"It has been a long and unconventional journey to Biden's election, and the IAFF has been with him all the way. From his early days in the U.S. Senate and his eight years as vice president, this union has supported Joe Biden because he supports the issues that are important to the lives and livelihoods of our members and to keeping the public and our communities safe.

"I am so proud that the IAFF was the first union to endorse Joe Biden's presidential campaign. From his address in March 2019 at our Legislative Conference – where the hall was filled with the IAFF gold and black 'Run Joe Run' signs – to Pittsburgh in April 2019 at his first rally as an announced candidate, we've stood strong with him. From the tough caucuses in Iowa and the New Hampshire primary, we helped push him through the crowded primary field. Our union has been proud to show our steadfast support for Joe, just as he has shown his support for working men and women throughout his political career.

"Joe Biden will be a president on issues that give fire fighters a full voice in protecting their neighborhoods. He will be a leader for all Americans, regardless of their political affiliations, while restoring the soul the nation. He will rebuild the backbone of the middle class and restore people's belief in equal opportunity for everyone with his core conviction that by working together we can build back better.

"Just as important, his exceptional experience on the international stage will put America back as the beacon of hope and democracy around the world through strength, decency, civility and discourse.

"The IAFF is honored to call Joe Biden our friend, and today we are proud to call him presidentelect."