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PLANO FIRE CHIEF ACCEPTS PRESIDENTIAL F.E.M.A. APPOINTMENT

"It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of William E. Peterson as Plano's Fire Chief," stated City Manager Thomas H. Muehlenbeck. "Since October, 1982, Bill has done an outstanding job for the City of Plano." His retirement is effective January 31, 2006.

"It is also my pleasure to announce that Bill has been offered, and has accepted, a White House Presidential appointment as the Director of Region VI of the Federal Emergency Management Agency," said City Manager Muehlenbeck. "Chief Peterson will begin his new assignment on Monday, January 30, 2006."

Chief Peterson is credited with developing a progressive fire service organization delivering a wide range of fire protection and emergency medical services to our community, which has grown rapidly, since he started in 1982. He has also served as Plano's Emergency Management Coordinator, a lecturer, an Instructor in Fire Science, an Author, a Management Consultant, a Field Survey Analyst, and as a member of national and international planning and standards committees.

Chief Peterson has implemented extensive operational, organizational and administrative changes within the Fire Department in his tenure as Chief, including the establishment of the paramedic EMS system and an affirmative action program. He has also improved the public relations of the Department and developed the national and international reputation of the Department to deliver a wide range of high quality fire and emergency medical services.

"Chief Peterson has served our community in so many ways, both professionally and personally. His most recent leadership of Plano's emergency support response to two major Hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, showed our community his ability to bring different elements of our community together for the common good. Bill has brought much national, state and local recognition to Plano and he will be sorely missed," stated Mayor Pat Evans.

Prior to coming to Plano, Peterson served the City of Waukegan IL as Fire Chief, from 1979 to 1982. He served the Village of Bolingbrook, IL as Fire Marshal from 1974 – 1979 and the Village of Evergreen Park, IL as Lieutenant/Firefighter from 1965 – 1974.

His training as a Civil Engineer served him at General Dynamics, where he served as a Civil Engineer from 1970 – 1974.

Chief Peterson completed the Harvard Law School program on Negotiation and Negotiating Labor Agreements, in 2005, as well as the John F Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government (1985 F.E.M.A. Fire Fellowship). He also completed numerous courses through the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

He currently serves as the Immediate Past International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers, based in Morton-in-Marsh, England, after having served in various capacities for the past ten (10) years. Chief Peterson recently received his certification as a Certified Emergency Manager from the International Association of Emergency Managers, in March, 2005.

Peterson has received numerous awards during his tenure in Plano, including the Krzysztof Smolarkiewicz Medal, Serial No. 9, for exemplary service to the Polish Fire Officer Academy of the National Fire Service, Warsaw, Poland, in June 2005. He also has been the recipient of the Award of Recognition by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association for service to the organization (2001) and was voted the Fire Chief of the Year (2000) by the International Association of Fire Chiefs

and Fire Chief Magazine.

“Bill has served the City of Plano and our community well, over these past 23 years,” stated Executive Director Bruce Glasscock. “We look at this opportunity for Bill, not as the end of a relationship with the City of Plano and our citizens, but as another means of supporting public safety efforts, of Plano and others, on a wider scale. We are confident Bill will provide the highest quality of service excellence to F.E.M.A., as he provided here. He will be greatly missed,” stated Glasscock.

“I believe the Fire Department will be left in good hands to continue to deliver the highest level of service possible,” stated Peterson. “The Plano Fire Department is the best in the country. I know the men and women of the Department will continue to make Plano’s Department a progressive fire service organization. I will miss each and every one of them.”

An interim Fire Chief will be appointed in the next few weeks, to lead the Department while a national search is conducted for Chief Peterson’s replacement.