



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assistant Fire Chief Retiring – City Names Incoming Assistant Chief

New Braunfels, Texas – City of New Braunfels Assistant Fire Chief Derek Wrenn will retire from the New Braunfels Fire Department on October 4, 2017 with exactly 30 years of public fire service. He began his career with the Universal City Fire Department on October 4, 1987. Wrenn joined the New Braunfels Fire Department as a firefighter in 1995 and became the Assistant Fire Chief in May of 2009. Chief Wrenn also served as Interim Fire Chief during part of his tenure with the City.

“I have very been fortunate to have an outstanding career with the only two fire departments I wanted to serve with. However, none of this would be possible without the support of my wife and family. They continue to support me in everything I do. Not only did my family show support to me throughout my career but the men and women of the New Braunfels Fire Department did as well. It has been a pleasure to work with all city employees, neighboring departments and regional partners throughout the years. Now it’s time to enjoy the next phase of life,” said Assistant Fire Chief Derek Wrenn.

“It is a bittersweet moment for me losing 30 years of valuable fire service experience with Assistant Chief Wrenn,” said Fire Chief Kenneth Jacks. “But, on the other hand, I’m extremely happy for a friend that has earned his well deserved retirement. He has had a positive impact on this department and his thoughtfulness and leadership will be missed.”

Captain Patrick O’Connell will assume the role of Assistant Fire Chief following Chief Wrenn’s retirement. O’Connell has been in the fire service for more than 24 years. He began his career with the Marlin, Texas Fire Department in 1993, working in several other departments until he joined the New Braunfels Fire Department in January of 2005. Over the course of his career, he has spent time in fire operations working as a firefighter and a paramedic, in the training division, in the Fire Marshal’s Office as the Fire Marshal and as the Interim Emergency Management Coordinator. O’Connell has undergraduate degrees in Fire Service Administration and Emergency Management Administration and is currently completing his Master’s degree in Public Affairs.

“I am very excited about this new opportunity to serve the citizens and visitors of New Braunfels,” O’Connell stated. “We are very lucky to have committed and highly qualified staff throughout the City and I am looking forward to building on the foundation established by Assistant Chief Wrenn and continuing this department’s pursuit of excellence in all that we do.”

“I’m excited to have Patrick joining the command staff,” Chief Jacks said. “He brings knowledge, experience and an un-matched work ethic that will continue to move the organization forward for many years to come.”

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