

Rowlett

News Release

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POLICE CHIEF MATT WALLING RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

ROWLETT, TX – It is with great appreciation for his service that the City of



Rowlett announces the retirement of Police Chief Matt Walling after 25 years dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. The past seven of those years he has served as Chief. Chief Walling's retirement is effective March 31, 2012, and a permanent replacement has not been selected.

"It has been an honor to serve the Rowlett community for the last 25 years. I am also honored to have lead such an incredibly dedicated group of men and women in the Rowlett Police Department," Chief Walling said. "My time interacting with the people in this community has been a blessing to me and my family."

Chief Walling is a 30-year veteran of law enforcement. He joined the Rowlett Police Department in 1986 as a Police Officer and has worked his way up through the ranks, serving as Detective, Patrol Watch Commander, Patrol Division Commander, Support Services Commander and Assistant Chief. He was appointed Chief of Police in 2005 after serving more than 18 years in the department. Beginning his career as a patrol officer in Mount Vernon, Texas,

Police Chief Retires – page 2

he also worked for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and the Commerce Police Department before joining the Rowlett Police Department.

"We appreciate Matt's passion for law enforcement, his fellow officers, as well as his dedication to quality public service during his 25 years of service in Rowlett," said City Manager Lynda Humble. "We wish him all the best as he begins the next chapter of his life."

Chief Walling was responsible for leading a Police Department consisting of 75 sworn personnel and 42 civilians. During his seven-year tenure as Chief many milestones within the department were reached, including the development of the department's Vision Statement to address the commitment to the community and to customer service: "Community First- Every Time". He also implemented the department-wide Community Policing philosophy focusing on Problem Solving and Community Involvement. This initiative was named an Award Winning Finalist for the 2011 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Community Policing Award. Under his direction the Police Department's first Five Year Strategic Plan was developed and implemented as well.

"Chief Walling has accomplished a great deal in his 25 years of service to the City of Rowlett," said Mayor Todd Gottel. "Perhaps most notable is the connection he built between the Police Department and the citizens in our community."

Chief Walling brought the department into the community by consolidating Code Enforcement, Animal Services and Health Services, which were formerly independent City departments, with the Crime Prevention Unit, School Resource Officers Unit and School Crossing Guards to form the Community Services Division. This move had a positive impact on neighborhood quality of life and bolstered the department's Neighborhood Problem Solving capabilities,

Police Chief Retires – page 3

doubling the number of Neighborhood Crime Watch groups in the last year. He also created the successful Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program to maximize community involvement and enhance Police Department services.

Under Chief Walling's leadership, the Police Department's crime reduction efforts have seen a consistent decrease in the reduction of National Incident Based Reporting Systems (NIBRS) crimes over the last four years. The City of Rowlett experienced a 2.5% decrease in reported NIBRS crimes in 2008, a 9.4% decrease in 2009, a 10.7% decrease in 2010 and an overall decrease of 3% in 2011 compared to 2010.

Chief Walling served as the City's liaison to the Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee. He is a graduate of the 204th Session of the FBI National Academy and the 40th Class of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Leadership (LEMITS) and Command College. He is the former President of the Rowlett Rotary Club and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Texas Police Chiefs Association, the North Texas Police Chiefs Association, the FBI National Academy Associates and the LEMIT Leadership and Command College Alumni Association.

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