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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**POLICE CHIEF STEVEN GRAFF ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

**Mequon, WI** - Mequon Police Chief Steven Graff has announced his retirement effective May 3, 2018. Graff has served 28 years with the Mequon Police Department.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Chief Graff, who is a key member of the City's executive management team," said Mequon City Administrator William Jones. "Steve's steady leadership and commitment to the safety and well-being of Mequon and its residents have led to numerous improvements within the Police Department. Throughout his career, he has represented both the Department and this City with integrity, class and distinction. He is the consummate professional and a credit to law enforcement, and we wish him all the best."

Graff started his law enforcement career as a Mequon Police Officer in 1990. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1999 and Captain in 2004. In 2005, Graff was appointed Acting Police Chief and remained in that role until he was formally appointed the seventh Police Chief of the Mequon Police Department in May 2006.

In his role as Chief, Graff was responsible for directing and managing the overall operations of the Mequon Police Department (MPD). This included formulating and managing the Department's annual budget, enforcing various rules, regulations and policies and coordinating efforts with federal, state and other local law enforcement agencies. He also served as the

Department's liaison to the Mequon Public Safety Committee, the City's Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and the Ozaukee County Traffic Safety Commission.

As Police Chief, Graff led multiple efforts to improve Departmental operations. He was instrumental in creating the Department's first K-9 unit and led the effort to make Mequon the first law enforcement agency in Ozaukee County to issue computer printed warnings and citations. He also installed video cameras in squad cars, oversaw the implementation of body-worn cameras, and spearheaded a recent conversion of the Patrol Division's fleet from sedan-style squads to larger sport-utility vehicles. Graff also assisted with a comprehensive analysis of staffing levels in the Police and Fire Departments in 2017, and played a key role in adopting Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols in the City's 9-1-1 Communications Center in 2016.

Additionally, Graff is credited with growing and sustaining the Department's Citizens Police Academy, an educational program that allows residents, employees and students the opportunity to learn about the functions of the Department firsthand. The academy, which runs annually, will graduate its 20<sup>th</sup> class later this month.

Chief Graff holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resource Management from Concordia University-Wisconsin. He is also a graduate of the Police Staff and Command School at Northwestern University.

A resident of Mequon, Chief Graff has also been active in community life. He is currently a member of the Mequon-Thiensville Optimist Club and has coordinated dozens of blood drives in partnership with the Blood Center of Wisconsin over the last several years. Additionally, he remains active with the Stars & Stripes Honor Flight program, having previously accompanied veterans on trips to visit various memorials in Washington, D.C.

A single father of three who lost his wife Jill to cancer nearly ten years ago, Graff is looking forward to spending more time with his three children - Julia, A.J. and Tommy, and to managing a new business venture in the private sector. As noted, his last day of service will be Friday, May 3.

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