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Newport Beach Police Chief to Retire
Interim chief to be appointed

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. -- Newport Beach Police Chief John Klein today announced his retirement, effective July 10, 2009. At its regularly scheduled closed session this evening, the City Council accepted Chief Klein's retirement and authorized Mayor Ed Selich to read the following statement at the succeeding Council meeting:

"With deep regret, the City Council this evening reluctantly accepted the early retirement of Police Chief John Klein. When Chief Klein first disclosed to the City Manager and Council that he was considering early retirement, the Council and the City Manager encouraged him to continue in office and expressed their full support of him in the event he decided to remain. Chief Klein ultimately decided that it was in the best interests of the residents of Newport Beach and the police department that he retire and provide an unfettered opportunity for the city to resolve the department's recently publicized controversies. While we believe that the chief's retirement has come too soon, John's decision is a clear demonstration of his character and loyalty to the citizens of Newport Beach and the department he so ably led.

John has served the City of Newport Beach for nearly three decades with honor and integrity. He has provided leadership in a variety of capacities and has been a major contributor to a police force that keeps this city among the safest in the nation. From the day he started as chief to his last day of work, we have had – and will continue to have - the utmost confidence in John's abilities and leadership, and his on-going contributions as leader of the department will be sorely missed. John, please accept our most profound wishes to you and your family for a long and happy retirement."

Klein joined the department in 1979 and progressed through the ranks until being appointed police chief in July 2007. He listed improving community relations among his top goals and successfully developed several programs that emphasize open communication with the public. Those efforts

include launching the department's new online police report system, working closely with local bar and restaurant owners to address issues related to alcohol consumption in certain areas of the city, and requiring patrol lieutenants to reach out and develop community contacts in the areas they oversee. Klein has also worked to increase the police department's interaction with other city departments and to improve communication and career development opportunities within the department.

"I appreciate the strong support I have received from members of the Police Department, the City Council, the City staff and the public," Klein said. "Newport Beach is an exceptional city and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to spend 30 years of my career working with and within this community."

In closed session, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a separation agreement, the terms of which will be publicly available at the City Clerk's office. In addition, the Council authorized the City Manager to immediately initiate an external search for an interim police chief, with a targeted start date of no later than July 10, 2009. The interim police chief will lead the department until a permanent chief is hired and will assist the Council and the Civil Service Board in the ongoing review of relevant regulations and the police department promotional process. The City Council is conducting a search to replace the current city manager upon his retirement in September. Among the first duties of the newly appointed city manager will be to conduct an open search for the permanent police chief with the objective of having the new chief in place in early 2010.

The Newport Beach Police Department has 241 employees including, 149 sworn officers. The department has successfully investigated several high-profile crimes and the city is repeatedly ranked as one of the safest in the nation. Newport Beach citizens rated the department's services highly in a 2007 customer satisfaction survey.