



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fire Chief John Robinson Retiring**

**New Braunfels, Texas** — The City of New Braunfels has announced Fire Chief John Robinson is retiring on April 1, 2014 after 23 years of service.

“We are all very grateful to Chief Robinson for his many years of public service and devotion to the community,” said City Manager Robert Camareno. “John has shown tremendous dedication to the firefighters he has led, to the city’s vision and to responding to the needs of our community. We wish him all the best in his retirement.”

Chief Robinson began his career with the New Braunfels Fire Department in 1991, and was promoted through the ranks and ultimately named Fire Chief in October of 2008.

“I have been truly blessed with the opportunities afforded me over the past 23 years,” Chief Robinson said. “I will miss my fellow employees, as those from all departments demonstrate the core values of our city diligently. I am particularly proud of our firefighters, who personify the New Braunfels Fire Department Mission – *Protection with Integrity.*”

During his tenure Chief Robinson was instrumental in the building of Fire Station #4 on Alyssa Way, created the Assistant Fire Chief position and oversaw the installation of the City’s emergency alert siren system. Other accomplishments include greatly enhancing the Emergency Operations Center training and functionality, building strong relationships with outside agencies - such as Comal County, working to obtain a long term agreement for Emergency Services District 7, supporting development of the New Braunfels Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), as well as taking a lead role in obtaining funding and securing migration of the department’s radio system.

The New Braunfels Fire Department employs 131 people and is responsible for the 45 square miles within the City of New Braunfels and more than 120 square miles of unincorporated areas of Guadalupe and (primarily) Comal Counties. The fire department responds to calls involving, but not limited to: fire, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, rescue (water, high angle, and entrapment), code enforcement, and arson investigation.

A New Braunfels native, Chief Robinson was a young man living in San Antonio when he saw a volunteer fire department advertising for “A Few Good Volunteers.” With the birth of his first child

upcoming, he decided that being a volunteer firefighter was a good way to pay back society for having been so good to him. What started as volunteer service quickly became a passion. Seeking additional training, he enrolled himself in the area fire academy. The day after graduation, he applied for a position as a firefighter with the City of New Braunfels and was hired. Seventeen years later he was promoted to the position of Fire Chief, after having held every other rank in the Department.

John and his wife Beverly live in New Braunfels in a home that has been in the extended family for almost 70 years. They are both very active in the community, their church, and treasure their time with their children and grandchildren.

Assistant Fire Chief Derek Wrenn will serve as Interim Fire Chief until a new Fire Chief is named.

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