



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Police Chief Matt Haney Retires

Bainbridge Island, WA, January 23, 2009 – Matt Haney will retire from his position as Chief of Police this spring, Mayor Darlene Kordonowy announced today. The Mayor said she will appoint Deputy Chief Jon Fehlman as interim Police Chief.

“It’s been a real pleasure to serve in this position,” said Haney, who joined the Bainbridge Police force as a Lieutenant in 2001. He was appointed Acting Chief two years later, and assumed his current role in the spring of 2004. “Bainbridge Island has given me the opportunity to work with an extraordinary group of officers, and to watch them grow in professionalism and abilities. Our clearance rates – the rate at which crimes are resolved – and our level of service to the community have risen consistently, while those of many comparable communities have fallen.”

“While I know our force, and our community, will miss Chief Haney in many ways, we’re fortunate that Deputy Chief Fehlman is so well-qualified to step in,” Mayor Kordonowy said. Fehlman, who was hired in November, has 23 years of police experience, including special investigations, emergency management and community policing. He served most recently as Lieutenant for the Santa Rosa, California Police Department, where he directed five investigative teams with over forty personnel. Fehlman holds a masters degree in Emergency Services Administration.

According to City Administrator Mark Dombroski, the city will begin the process of selecting a permanent Police Chief immediately. No target date has been set for a replacement to be named. A search is currently underway to replace Randy Witt, Director of Public Works, who will begin a new position as Design and Construction Manager for King County Transit next week.

Prior to coming to Bainbridge Island, Haney served with the State Criminal Justice Training Commission, where he developed leadership, SWAT and firearms courses for the Police Academy. He served previously with police forces in King County and Homer, Alaska, among others.

Haney will be leaving Bainbridge in mid-February. He has accepted a position as Police Chief for the Colville Confederated Tribes, where he will be responsible for a 30-member force policing the 2 million acre reservation. “This is an exciting opportunity for me and for my family. We have friends and family in eastern Washington, and have been visiting the reservation since 1980. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to bring my skills to bear on some new challenges – and to being closer to opportunities for outdoor recreation.”