



## CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 2, 2009

Contact: Mark Dombroski  
City Manager  
City of Bainbridge Island  
(206)780-8626  
mdombroski@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us

### **Jon Fehlman to be appointed Chief of Police**

Bainbridge Island, WA, September 2, 2009 – City Manager Mark Dombroski informed the City Council yesterday of his intention to appoint Jon Fehlman Chief of Police effective September 16, 2009. Fehlman has served as Acting Chief of Police since former Chief Matt Haney left for retirement in January.

“Jon’s sense of community policing is right for Bainbridge Island,” Dombroski said. “Since he joined the Bainbridge Island Police Department as Deputy Chief last December, Jon has consistently impressed me with his leadership skills and communication style. Perhaps more important is the praise that has been communicated to me by his officers as well as by City staff, council members and members of the public.”

A 23 year veteran officer, Chief Fehlman was recruited for position of Deputy Chief following a nationwide search process. “I knew at the time that Chief Haney was already eligible for retirement, and I valued the potential Jon brought for continuity of leadership,” Dombroski said. “If I were to conduct another nationwide search at this time, I don’t believe I could find a stronger candidate for the position of Chief.”

Prior to joining the Bainbridge Island Police force, Chief Fehlman served for 12 years in the Santa Rosa, California Police Department. As manager of the Investigations Bureau, he supervised and directed five teams with over forty personnel responsible for investigating all violent crimes, street narcotics, property crimes, domestic violence/sexual assault and gangs. He also served as Lieutenant in charge of the Field Services Division – Patrol Bureau. In this position he planned, directed and managed the activities of three Patrol teams, comprised of 35 Officers and four Sergeants, and oversaw a budget of \$19 million.

Chief Fehlman began his police career with the Laguna Beach Police Department, where he served as a Patrol Officer for 11 years. During that time he twice received the Blue Knight Award, used to honor and recognize individuals for acts of heroism, lifesaving or actions above and beyond the call of duty. Chief Fehlman is also the recipient of the Medal of Valor, Good Conduct Award, Distinguished Service Award, Community Policing award and two Officer of the Year awards, and has received over 75 written commendations during his career.

“With a Master’s Degree in Emergency Services Administration, Jon has brought invaluable contributions to the City’s Emergency Preparedness Program, for which he is accountable,” Dombroski said. Dombroski pointed to Chief Fehlman’s commitment to community

involvement as another outstanding characteristic. Chief Fehlman has served on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Mental Illness and United Against Sexual Assault, and as Chair for the Community Multi-Cultural Board. He has also received recognition from MADD for support of their mission and enforcement against driving under the influence.

“With the appointment of Jon to the position of Chief of Police I will discontinue the position of Deputy Chief of Police,” Dombroski announced. “Going forward, we will propose a re-organization of the Police Department that can maximize efficiency and effectiveness while improving the career paths available to our officers. Chief Fehlman and I look forward to working with the City Council in this effort.” A swearing in ceremony is planned during the September 23 City Council meeting.

“Chief Fehlman, with his wife of 23 years and five sons, is a welcome and exceptional addition to the Bainbridge Island community,” Dombroski said. Citizens interested in meeting Chief Fehlman are invited to contact him at the Police Department, at 842-5211. Chief Fehlman will provide an update on the City’s Emergency Preparedness Program at the September 21 meeting of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, at noon and at 6:30 pm at the Wing Point Country Club. For more information or to RSVP, interested citizens may call 842-5113.

# # #