



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCES NEW TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

After a nationwide search and a grueling, competitive process, City Manager Kurt F. Kimball has come to his decision on the hiring of our City's new Police Chief.

In making his decision, Mr. Kimball states: "I took into account the totality of information that only I was privy to. I received input from a great variety of constituencies—the general community, the fine men and women of the Police Department, other top City staff who must work as a team with the Police Department, area law enforcement professionals, members of the City Commission, and other interested parties—including neighborhood association representatives and related City boards and commissions. In addition to listening intently to the differing perspectives of various audiences and constituencies, I also relied on my 33 years of professional experience in making good judgments about the selection of the top talent for the City organization.

Given competing interests in this extremely important position and the strong competition, my decision was not easy. It is my sole responsibility to select the candidate that will ensure the best long-term performance of our Police Department. Understanding that, I am proud to announce my selection of Kevin Belk as the next Chief of the Grand Rapids Police Department. Chief Belk is extremely well-equipped to provide the solid leadership, management, and supervision of the complex, nearly \$50 million operation that we call the Grand Rapids Police Department. Effective

leadership and management of this sizeable operation is a prerequisite to effective policing in our diverse community.” Chief Belk responded “I am honored and humbled to be named the Chief of Police for this great city; I love this city and I love this police department. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the community in this new role.”

Mr. Kimball went on to state that he “is similarly proud to announce my appointment of James Farris to the reinstated position of Deputy Police Chief of the Grand Rapids Police Department. James is widely respected in our community for his years of loyal service to the GRPD and for his basic decency, honesty, and integrity. He is uniquely equipped to help build bridges of communication between our very fine Police Department and the good citizens of our community.

I have every confidence that Chief Belk and Deputy Chief Farris will excel in their respective capacities.” Deputy Chief Farris stated “I am honored to be selected by our City Manager, Mr. Kurt Kimball, as the Deputy Chief for our great City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. I will assist Chief Belk to the best of my ability in serving our wonderful community and our great police department.” Of the appointment of Deputy Police Chief James Farris, Chief Kevin Belk said “I have worked with Captain James Farris for 27 years and know him to be a very dedicated, loyal police officer. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom who has served this community well. I look forward to serving this community with him as we take on these new roles.”

Mr. Kimball concluded his statement by saying “the City is most fortunate to have such a great team charting the future course of the Grand Rapids Police Department. The appointments of both men are effective immediately.”

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