



Town of Little Elm  
100 West Eldorado Parkway  
Little Elm, TX 75068  
(214) 975-0406  
[www.littleelm.org](http://www.littleelm.org)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

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## Little Elm names new Police Chief, other staff changes

LITTLE ELM (July 13, 2015) A number of significant appointments in Little Elm have been announced today by Town Manager Matt Mueller, including the naming of a permanent Police Chief and the elevation of the Fire Chief to a new position.

Acting Police Chief Rodney Harrison has been chosen to lead the department on a permanent basis, and Fire Chief Joe Florentino will occupy the position of Assistant Town Manager/Director of Public Safety. Assistant Town Manager Doug Peach will become Deputy Town Manager.

Chief Harrison takes the reins of the department immediately, but will be officially sworn in during a formal ceremony in August. Florentino will assume his new duties on Oct. 1.

“Chief Harrison has the utmost integrity and has earned the confidence of the Police Department,” said Mueller. “While recently-retired Chief Waylan Rhodes left some big shoes to fill, I believe Rodney is the person who can step into those shoes and lead the department into the future.”

Chief Harrison has articulated some of his goals of the department, including: enhancing the relationship with the public through community oriented policing; updating policies and procedures with the intention of securing “Recognized” status within the Texas Police Chief’s Association certification program; and working to grow the Little Elm Police Department in order to keep up with the rapid growth that is occurring in the community.

An Eagle Scout, Chief Harrison has served the Town of Little Elm for four years. In addition to his accomplished career, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, acquired the Master Peace Officer Certification through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, and has graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy.

Florentino will oversee the operations of the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management, and Information Technology.

In addition to these appointments, Mueller announced that Gregg Wilkerson has been elevated from Captain to Assistant Chief effective immediately. The elimination of the Captain position clears the way for the creation of an additional Detective position.

“This detective position potentially reduces the case load of the individuals working in CID,” said Mueller. “The staffing shift is needed to keep up with the growth on Hwy 380 and the rest of the community.”

Finally, a reporting change for the Animal Control Facility will make it part of the Community Services Department. Staff members in Community Service possess a significant amount of Animal Control experience, allowing the Town to greatly increase the focus on Animal Control in Little Elm.

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**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.