



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2010

**CITY MANAGER MARK WATSON TO HOST COMMUNITY MEETINGS
ON POLICE CHIEF SEARCH**

Oak Ridge, Tenn. ----City Manager Mark Watson announced today that he is hosting two community meetings to gather input into the selection of the next Police Chief.

The meetings are scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
461 West Outer Drive

Date: Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Scarboro Community Center
148 Carver Avenue

"A department that has 61 sworn personnel, 24 civilians, and an operating budget of six million dollars, has an impact on nearly every facet of community life," stated Mr. Watson. "Chief David Beams has held the position since 1994 and many things are of interest to our citizens as changing community needs have occurred. I encourage people of all walks of life to join me for a candid conversation about future demands and directions for the Oak Ridge Police Department. I am very interested in hearing citizens' views regarding the profile and characteristics of the next police chief."

The meetings will be informal, and structured to allow attendees an opportunity to submit comments verbally or in written form. The City Manager will stress the organizational qualities he has identified for every city department--Openness, Responsibility, Communication, Innovation and Decisiveness.

Current Police Chief David Beams is retiring after more than 40 years of service to Oak Ridge; his retirement is effective March 5, 2011. Last month, Mr. Watson indicated that a search process for a replacement for Chief Beams would begin immediately to coincide closely with Chief Beams planned retirement date. The Mercer Group, an executive search firm based in Santa Fe, New Mexico will assist in the recruiting process.

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