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Media Release

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City of Joliet Names Deputy Chief Michael Trafton as Joliet's New Police Chief

Joliet, IL – The City of Joliet: Deputy Police Chief Mike Trafton has been appointed the new police chief of the City of Joliet effective September 20, 2011. Trafton replaces Chief Fred Hayes who retired in August 2011.

“Chief Trafton has the experience, the skills, and the respect of the community and Joliet police officers to be a great police chief. Chief Trafton will carry on the tradition of building a team that holds the safety of Joliet residents as its primary goal,” stated Tom Thanas, Joliet City Manager.

With over 25 years of service to the residents of Joliet, Trafton has held many ranks within the Police Department. He was hired in 1985 as a patrol officer and worked his way up to the ranks of the Department as field training officer, canine officer, tactical officer, crisis negotiator, Special Services officer, supervisor of the Department's Neighborhood Response Team and the Joliet Narcotics Unit, Operations Commander, and the last two years as Deputy Chief.

A graduate of Lincoln Way Central High School, Trafton received his Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration from Western Illinois University in Macomb in 1985. He has attended various police-related management courses to include Managing Criminal Investigations and Supervision of Police Personnel. Trafton is also a graduate of the prestigious Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff and Command.

Throughout his years of service Trafton has received awards for his outstanding performance as well as many letters of appreciation from citizens and civic groups. He was the 1992 recipient of the Exchange Club of Joliet's *Officer of the Year Award* and the VFW's *Officer of the Year Award* in 1993.

Trafton is 48 years old and has been married to his wife, Melissa, for 25 years. Mike and Melissa have three daughters, Katherine (21), Alexandria (17), and Nicole (15).

Trafton's father, Bill, will be pinning the Police Chief's badge on his son during a ceremony at tonight's Joliet City Council meeting. His mother, Barbara, passed away earlier this year from ALS.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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