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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murphy Police Dept. welcomes new chief on Sept. 21 *National-level search attracted 85 applicants*

MURPHY (September 14, 2015) At the conclusion of a nationwide search for a new Police Chief, the City of Murphy will welcome someone from the neighborhood to the position, says City Manager James Fisher.

“Our new chief is someone very familiar with Murphy,” he said. “His familiarity with the area makes him an ideal choice. His stellar career progression, his academic credentials and his solid character will serve the City well.” The new chief begins on Monday, Sept. 21.

Arthur “Trey” Cotten, currently a lieutenant with the Richardson Police Department, emerged as the top candidate in a search that attracted 85 applications from every corner of the country. After an exhaustive interview process that pared the 85 aspirants down to 20, culminating with 10 candidates undergoing a final personal interview, Chief-elect Cotten arose as the choice of a pair of community panels, made up of Murphy residents.

The new Chief is a native of the North Texas area and in 2004 obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Dallas, graduating magna cum laude. He is also a 2015 graduate of UTD with a Master of Public Affairs. He studied briefly at the University of Oklahoma during his undergraduate program, and began his law enforcement career with the OU Department of Public Safety in 1991.

Two years later, he was hired by the Richardson Police Department, where he served as a patrol officer for two years before being transferred to the Motorcycle Unit. He received extensive training in advanced collision and reconstruction investigation while in that unit and was certified as an expert witness in Dallas County for Fatality Collision Reconstruction.

In 2004, Chief-elect Cotten began teaching Collision Reconstruction Courses as an Adjunct Professor for the Texas A&M University’s Texas Engineering Extension Services. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He spent two years as a supervisor in Patrol, followed by two years as the Crime Prevention Supervisor.

During his tenure as commander of Crime Prevention, the Richardson Police Department was ranked first in the nation for cities under 100,000 residents for National Night Out. In 2011, Cotten was promoted to Lieutenant of Police and was assigned to the patrol division, where his duties included: police officer field training program; hiring boards for new police officers; supervising the Traffic/Crash Investigation Unit; and each of the three patrol shifts.

Among his credentials, the new Chief holds an instructor license through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education; a Masters Certificate in Local Government Management from the University of Texas at Dallas; a Graduate Academic Certificate in Police Management from the University of North Texas; and has completed the Management College and School of Police Supervision from the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration.

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Cotten and his wife Tammi have a son in the Marine Corps and a daughter in high school.

Fisher says the incoming Chief has the qualities necessary to lead the statewide-acclaimed Murphy Police Department. "The Murphy Police Department has been recognized as a first-class operation, and I know Chief Cotten will continue to emphasize the qualities that got us there."

At the same time, Fisher praised Plano Assistant Police Chief Ed Drain for stepping in as an interim chief. Chief Drain returns to his duties in Plano.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.