



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Communications Office

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SUBJECT: Duluth Fire Chief John Strongitharm Announces Retirement

BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator

Duluth Fire Chief John Strongitharm Announces Retirement

[Duluth, MN] – Duluth Fire Chief John Strongitharm has announced that he will retire at the end of 2014 after 31 years in public service, nearly 29 of which were with the Duluth Fire Department. Strongitharm served in a variety of roles including Fire Equipment Operator, Fire Captain, Fire Marshall and went on to be appointed Fire Chief in 2003.

“John’s passion and dedication to service will be missed. He has served the City of Duluth and our residents valiantly. The City and the community are grateful for John’s many years of service to ensuring the safety of our residents,” said Mayor Don Ness.

Chief Strongitharm has many accomplishments over his lengthy career but the most notable are his tenure as the City’s Certified Emergency Manager, a critical role during the June 2012 flood; his leadership that enabled the department to centralize and improve the One Stop Shop for Planning and Construction Services; efficient management of the department budget by reducing costs and obtaining \$3.2 million in grants; helping to reform the rental licensing rules; expanding the blight reduction program; and reducing the rental inspection backlogs.

During his service to the city, Strongitharm returned to school and earned his Bachelor’s Degree from the College of St. Scholastica, was a nationally certified Fire Investigator, a member of the Coast Guard Port Security Committee, and a Board member of the Minnesota Fire Chief’s Association. Chief Strongitharm leaves behind a committed group of men and women who are well trained and fully equipped to handle critical situations thanks to his leadership and commitment to excellence.

Strongitharm says he plans to spend more time with his wife Diane and their extended family.

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