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CITY OF ORLAND

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Peter R. Carr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chaney Named First Orland Paid Fire Chief

(Orland, CA, May 3, 2019) – The Orland Fire Chief Selection Committee – a joint panel of the City of Orland, Orland Rural Fire Protection District (ORFPD) and the Orland Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) – unanimously selected current volunteer chief Justin Chaney as its first-ever full-time paid fire chief after competitive interviews with four candidates on Saturday.

The chief will be a City of Orland employee with balanced responsibilities between the City and Rural agencies, who will share the cost. The City and District have partnered for well over 100 years to provide fire protection and related services to Orland, sharing facilities, equipment, administration and the corps of volunteers.

Chaney, co-owner of Chaney-Miller Construction, has served as an OVFD volunteer for some 18 years. The ten most recent years saw Chaney earn his stripes at OVFD as captain, assistant chief, and – since 2017-- chief. Up to this point the chief role was filled by annual election amongst the 45 volunteers.

"We're proud to welcome Chief Chaney as a full-time City department head," said Mayor Bruce T. Roundy, "and pleased to continue the remarkable 100-year heritage of partnership with OVFD and the Rural District."

Rural District Board President Jack Bucke remarked, "We appreciate Justin Chaney's demonstrated excellence as our volunteer chief, and have complete confidence he will continue to provide the kind of public safety leadership our volunteers and our community need for the future."

Prior to his 13 years in construction, Chaney worked as a mechanic/welder fabricator for Bell Carter and Land O'Lakes. He is a graduate of Orland High School with college coursework completed at Butte College and Chico State. He also earned

EMR (emergency medical responder), CPR/AED and hazardous materials handling certificates.

OVFD chiefs have been advising the City and District in recent years that the position had become too time-consuming for anyone to be expected to perform without full-time attention and compensation. The demands of State-mandated training requirements and reporting compliance, in addition to the leadership of 45 volunteers responding to nearly 800 calls a year, triggered the need to budget and recruit for a professional leader who could fully devote his or her attention.

Other cities that have moved to the format of full-time paid chiefs with an otherwise all or mostly volunteer department include Corning, Willows, Williams, Crescent City and Fort Bragg.

OVFD's volunteer ranks hover between 40 and 50, with each volunteer expected to make a required quota of trainings, responses to emergencies and fundraisers. Many volunteers boast a multi-generational family legacy. Three of the current 45 volunteers are women. Volunteers "try out" with the department and are admitted to membership by a selection board.

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