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Prior Lake, MN 55372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2007

Contact: Frank Boyles, City Manager, 952.292.0400; 952.447.9800

FIRE CHIEF BRUCE SAMES RESIGNS

On January 9, 2007, City Manager Frank Boyles accepted the resignation of Prior Lake Fire Chief Bruce Sames from the Prior Lake Volunteer Fire Department effective immediately. Speaking with great regret and sorrow, Sames stated, *"Due to circumstances that transpired over the past year in my personal life and in my fire chief duties, I believe it is in the best interest of the Fire Department and the City of Prior Lake that I resign immediately."*

On Monday, Jan. 8, Sames admitted withdrawing \$13,463 over approximately a one-year period from a Fire Department administered miscellaneous expense fund. He said the funds were used to support a gambling addiction. The fund includes money collected from the annual firefighter dance and chicken barbeque. According to Prior Lake City Manager Frank Boyles, Sames repaid the full amount of \$13,463 to the fund on Wednesday, Jan 10.

Boyles further advised that the firefighter/training officer responsible for the fund, Brian Davis, has been suspended indefinitely pending further investigation. Mr. Davis was aware of, and ultimately reported, the inappropriate withdrawals. The City has confirmed to its satisfaction that Mr. Davis did not receive any money.

The checking account for this fund has been frozen and is to be closed. The funds will be transferred to an annually audited account requiring two signatures for withdrawal and under the oversight of the treasurer of the Fire Department Pension Fund. Boyles also asked for a review of all 2006-2007 Fire Department budget requests, as well as the Pension Fund managed by the Fire Department, to assure no other irregularities exist. The City Finance Director and Fire Department Pension Fund Treasurer have completed their analysis. Neither fund was affected.

The Scott County Sheriff's office is investigating the allegations. No charges have been filed and representatives of the Prior Lake Police Department and Scott County Sheriff's office can offer no comment while the matter is under investigation.

1st Assistant Fire Chief Douglas Hartman will assume the duties of Fire Chief, and 2nd Assistant Fire Chief James Larson, Jr. will become 1st Assistant Fire Chief. An election will be conducted to fill the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief position and training officer position.