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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City of Prior Lake Hires New Street and Utilities Supervisor**

City of Prior Lake Street and Utility Foreman Joe Wiita accepted the city's street and utilities maintenance supervisor position on Wednesday, April 28. The promotion comes on the heels of the departure of current Street and Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Craig Eldred, who recently accepted a position as the City of Waconia's first-ever public services director. Eldred worked for the City of Prior Lake for eight years.

Wiita, the son of a career public works supervisor, has been with the City of Prior Lake for almost 14 years, beginning his career literally in the trenches as a streets and utilities maintenance worker. Since that time, Wiita has consistently sought out additional responsibility holding roles as a public works technician and most recently as the City's streets and utilities maintenance foreman. Wiita has also earned both a Public Works Supervisor Certificate and completed a Public Works Leadership Academy program at Hamlin University.

"I look forward to the many challenges ahead and will enjoy my new role as we upgrade the city's meter-reading capabilities and improve our award-winning snow and ice control program," says Wiita.

"Joe really wanted to move up the public works supervisory ladder. He has demonstrated commitment by achieving the required education on his own time, and we have seen him set some new standards in customer service," says Prior Lake City Manager Frank Boyles. "Joe was also instrumental in implementing the city's snow and ice control program which won the American Public Works Association's 2010 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award. I have confidence that Joe will continue to strive for new and innovative ways to provide services, while protecting the interests and investment of our residents."

Wiita's appointment to streets and utilities maintenance supervisor will be effective May 16, 2010, and the City will soon thereafter begin recruitment for a new maintenance foreman.