

**SERVICE COMMENDATION  
FIRE CHIEF WILLIAM NELSON**

**WHEREAS, Bill Nelson** began his career with the City of Troy on October 6, 1975 as Fire Marshall in the Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS, Bill** served his country in the United States Air Force from 1966-1970, as a Staff Sergeant - Medical Service Specialist, and a Fire Protection Supervisor with the Michigan Air National Guard's 191<sup>st</sup> Fire Department at Selfridge ANG Base. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Protection from Madonna University in 1977. **Bill** was promoted on June 17, 1989 to Assistant Fire Chief and on January 17, 1994 promoted to the City of Troy's Fire Chief; and

**WHEREAS,** During his 40 years of service, **Bill** worked under six City Managers and directed Troy's 180 volunteer and 11 sworn career personnel operating over 30 apparatus and vehicles from 6 stations and the Fire-Police Training Center with a \$5 million budget; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1991, **Bill** implemented an innovative program for providing emergency medical service in Troy. In a joint effort with the police department, performance specifications were developed whereby a private emergency medical service provides medical care in the form of paramedic first responder and advanced life support under contract with the City of Troy. This successful program has resulted in a savings of more than \$250,000 over other alternatives; and

**WHEREAS, Bill** integrated three regional hazardous materials response teams into one team which covers the majority of Oakland County and also developed the first hotel/motel retrofit fire sprinkler ordinance enacted in Michigan. He also led Troy's Fire Department to achieve Property Protection Class of 3 from Insurance Services Office and co-led the team to fund, build, and operate a combined Fire-Police Training Center in Troy; and

**WHEREAS, Bill will retire from the City of Troy on September 25, 2015 after 40 years of dedicated service** and the utmost respect from the Troy employees, volunteer Firefighters, and countless members of the organizations he served including the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. **Bill** received the Fire Chief of the Year Award from the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs in 2012; and

**WHEREAS, Bill** will now enjoy more time with his wife Doris (married 38 years on July 22, 2015); daughter **Lisa**, son-in-law **Mike** and grandchildren **Margaret** and **Ben**; daughter **Amy**; daughter **Emily**, son-in-law **Josh** and grandsons **Jason, Jonah, Jackson, Joshua and James**; and son **Scott**;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN,** That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy take this opportunity to express their appreciation to **Chief Bill Nelson** for his professionalism and his many contributions to the Troy Fire Department for the betterment of the community; and

**BE IT FURTHER KNOWN,** That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy, City Management, and the citizens of the City of Troy, extends wishes of prosperity, good health and happiness to **Bill** during his retirement years.

Presented the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 2015.