FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2006

Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris announced today that Ken Bergsma is the candidate that he and the Police Chief Interview Committee are recommending for appointment as the next Police Chief of Mount Vernon.

MOUNT VERNON – Current Police Chief Mike Barsness is retiring after 34 years of service with the City of Mount Vernon, effective October 31, 2006. Chief Barsness provided more than ample notice, and the City has been conducting an ongoing Police Chief search over the past several months. As part of the selection process, a Police Chief Interview committee was formed, and they recently conducted interviews with four final candidates. Following candidate interviews and much deliberation, the Police Chief Interview Committee has highly recommended that Ken Bergsma be appointed as the next Mount Vernon Police Chief.

Mayor Norris said, "I am very pleased to announce the selection of Ken Bergsma as our next Police Chief. Although this position does not require Council approval, I do intend to ask for their confirmation of Ken at the next Council meeting on November 1st. I'm also pleased that we have selected an Officer from within our own Department, who fully understands its internal workings, and will strive to make an outstanding Department even better." Norris further said "I want to once again thank Chief Barsness for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Mount Vernon. Mike was extremely helpful during the selection process and the Interview Committee and I are very grateful for his assistance.

Councilmember Joe Lindquist was a member of the Interview Committee, and he said "Ken Bergsma rose to the top during the interview process, and I'm confident he will make an outstanding Police Chief for many years to come."

Bergsma has been a Mount Vernon Police Officer for 29 years. He was sworn in as an entry-level patrolman in 1977 and quickly rose through the ranks. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 1980, Criminal Investigations Sergeant in 1989 and Lieutenant in 1994. As a Lieutenant, Bergsma has held the positions of Patrol Division Commander, Police Tactical Team Commander, Criminal Investigations Division and Crime Prevention Division Commander and Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Commander. Bergsma is also the Department's Public Information Officer.

"Ken brings an extensive background of practical experience, continuing police education and a commitment to our community that is clearly demonstrated in the many local organizations where he volunteers his time" said Norris. "I'm proud to present Ken Bergsma to our City Council and community as the most qualified candidate to succeed Mike Barsness, and to lead our Police Department into a challenging and successful future."

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