



NEWS RELEASE

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## **Grand Prairie Proudly Announces its New Community Inclusion Initiatives**

**Grand Prairie, TX-** The City of Grand Prairie is acting on the City's Resolution for Diversity, Inclusion, Justice, and Equality, which was passed by City Council in June, and presented publicly at the Grand Prairie Unity Rally on June 19, 2020. The Grand Prairie Police Department has had great success over years with its community engagement policing model. The City Manager's Office is now furthering that philosophy by creating a Community Inclusion position to be filled by Gerald Hodges, a current Grand Prairie Police Officer who has proudly served our city for eight years. His role is to manage all Community Inclusion initiatives.

**The Internal Initiatives, which foster a climate of inclusion within the organization so employees feel valued and demonstrate those values while serving the community include:**

### **Shared Leadership Team**

- Representatives from each city work group voice their input in a safe and accepting environment for all employees to ensure needs are met.

### **Friendship Day**

- City employees are compensated for half a workday to perform community service within the City of Grand Prairie extending goodwill and strengthening bonds within the community.

### **Employee Training/Listening Panels**

- Provides training to those who serve the City of Grand Prairie to ensure they are sensitive to one another and support City leaders' goals in meeting employee needs.

**The External Initiatives, which provide understanding and develop relationships in order to address and diffuse pockets of frustration include:**

### **Mayor's Ride Out program**

- Community leaders ride out with GPPD Officers to see firsthand the work, challenges, successes and relationships that transpire during an officer's shift.

### **Wisdom Wednesday "Their Story, Our History"**

- Grand Prairie citizens ages 50+ will be interviewed with the intent of their stories receiving airtime on GPTV and social media to combat ageism while allowing a rich history to be told through the eyes of those who lived it.

### **Unify Grand Prairie**

- This three-day program will encourage youth and police officers to bond, give youth a better understanding of city government, and promote responsible citizenship. They will take part in a roundtable discussion, visit City Hall and the municipal court, conduct a mock traffic stop, and learn the meaning behind the Memorial Wall at the Grand Prairie Public Safety Building.

Grand Prairie has remained steadfast in the goal of "promoting an inclusive culture and creating equity to preserve a high quality of life." For more information, or to partner with any of these programs, please contact the Grand Prairie City Manager's Office at 972-237-7549.