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NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

WACO, TEXAS (October 3, 2023) — The City of Waco is pleased to announce the selection of Ryan Dirker to serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Waco-McLennan County Office of Emergency Management, effective October 8, 2023. Ryan previously served as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for the Waco-McLennan County Office of Emergency Management before assuming the interim coordinator role in May 2023. In his role, he will oversee and facilitate the five phases of emergency management for McLennan County and the City of Waco, including preventing, mitigating against, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of all hazards.

Ryan has over 12 years of emergency management experience from various private and public organizations, including disaster management, railroad derailment clean-ups, regional hazard planning, severe weather response, and volunteer management. His previous experience includes logistical support to hospitals in the Dallas/Fort Worth area during the 2014 Ebola response and daily operations in the State Operations Center for the Texas Division of Emergency Management, where he was involved in every state activation from 2016 – 2020, including Hurricane Harvey and COVID-19. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning from the University of North Texas in 2012.

City Manager Bradley Ford shared, “Ryan has shown exceptional leadership during this interim period, and his expertise and ability to coordinate resources and teams for both the City and County has been invaluable.”

“We have full confidence that Ryan will continue to excel in this new role and contribute significantly to the safety and well-being of our community,” said Judge Scott Felton. “His experience and knowledge in emergency management will serve McLennan County well.”

The Office of Emergency Management serves all of McLennan County and is the liaison between local, state, and federal agencies.

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