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August 15, 2017

### **Burleson Deputy City Manager takes position in Waco**

Deputy City Manager Bradley Ford leaves Burleson for Assistant City Manager role in Waco. A City of Burleson leader for almost a decade, he accepted the position in Waco last month. His final day in Burleson will be Friday, September 1.

“Bradley has had an immeasurable impact on our community and organization,” City Manager Dale Cheatham said. “He will indeed be missed, and we are indebted to him for his many years of dedicated service and wish him and his family all the best.”

Ford joined the Burleson team as a planning official before taking over the role of director of economic development. He was promoted to the director of development services and in October 2015 stepped into the deputy city manager position, overseeing the economic development, building permits and inspections, fire department, fire prevention, neighborhood services and planning departments.

Both community and economic development in Burleson have thrived under Ford’s leadership. Ford was instrumental in the development of HighPoint Business Park and the recruitment of multiple businesses that now call the park home. He oversaw the public/private partnership that renovated Hidden Creek Golf Course, supported the recruitment of many of the city’s most popular retailers and restaurants, participated in long-range planning and policy-making exercises such as the Development Agreement Project, the Imagine Burleson Comprehensive Plan and the Freeport Tax Exemption. Most recently, Ford was an integral part of the planning and design of the upcoming Old Town Plaza project. While it will be bittersweet to leave Burleson, Ford said the city just 75 miles south of Burleson which has recently become incredibly popular due to HGTV’s Fixer Upper, presented too good an opportunity to ignore.

“Burleson’s vibrant community welcomed my family and me and allowed all of us to grow so much during our time here,” Ford said. “The staff and city council here has enhanced my career by giving me roles and project that have broadened my perspective as well as deepened my understanding of city functions, and for that, I will always be thankful.”

Ford said his focus over the next several weeks will be transitioning his projects to other staff members. The city is currently looking to fill the deputy city manager position and will be accepting applications until August 22.

The public is invited to a reception in Ford’s honor from 4 – 6 p.m. Friday, September 1 at Grumps Burgers, 108 S Main Street.

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