



## Press Release

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## El Monte Appoints New City Treasurer

**El Monte, Calif.** – After a thorough search process, the City of El Monte City Council has appointed a retired El Monte Police Department lieutenant with a long history of committed service to the community as City Treasurer.

Richard W. Thomas, a former Marine and a Vietnam veteran, dedicated more than 40 years to the El Monte Police Department as a lieutenant and reserve police officer. As the current Chairman of the City's Enterprise Fund Committee, Thomas provides oversight for the Water and Sewer Departments' maintenance, operations, and capital improvement projects. He also conducts annual budget reviews for those departments prior to presentation to the City Council for approval.

"I have known Mr. Thomas for many years and recommended his appointment previously to one of our oversight committees," said Mayor Andre Quintero. "Not only has Mr. Thomas dedicated many years to helping ensure the well-being of this community, he has worked just as hard behind the scenes to optimize efficiency for various departments."

As City Treasurer, Thomas is charged with protecting and managing City assets, maintaining banking relationships, administering the collection and receipt of City revenues and executing the placement of bond proceeds.

Thomas joined the El Monte Police Department in February 1973 and held an exemplary service record until his retirement from full-time service as a lieutenant in December 2002. He continued to serve as a reserve officer through January 2015.

"He's someone who is passionate about our City and making it a better place to live," said Mayor Pro Tem Victoria Martinez.

During his tenure with the El Monte Police Department, Thomas served in various administrative and managerial capacities, including work as a Grant Coordinator, securing funding to support the K-9 training program, additional personnel and equipment, the formation of the traffic division and the creation of the School Resource Officer Program.

“I’m very honored,” remarked Thomas. “El Monte and the people who live here are close to my heart. The opportunity to move into this capacity after having served as a peace officer for the city is very rewarding. I can’t wait to get started on this new and exciting chapter in my life.”

Thomas was also integral in bringing effective air support to the El Monte Police Department. As lieutenant in charge of Air Support, he coordinated multi-agency air support operations and expanded air support operations through additional multi-agency contracts and the purchase of aircraft, including the first R-44 helicopter.

Thomas, a father of four and grandfather of four, has always held safety as a top concern, in both his home and professional life.

After retirement from full-time service, Thomas worked for the El Monte City School District as a Disaster Management Consultant from 2003 until 2009. In this capacity, he developed emergency plans to meet requirements from both the State and Federal governments, developed and implemented response plans for each of the district’s school sites, and provided emergency response training to employees districtwide.

As El Monte Police Department’s Emergency Services Coordinator, he prepared effective and life-saving emergency response plans, engaged the community regularly in education for disaster preparedness and identified possible threats generated from 9/11 and served as Area D mutual aid coordinator for 15 law enforcement agencies.

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**The City of El Monte**, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit [www.elmonteca.gov](http://www.elmonteca.gov).