

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
September 2, 2014	

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Chris Chapanar, Police Captain, Gary McCullough, Police Chief, and Mark Anderson, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Recognize the Retirement of Dr. Jerry Hamilton, Chaplain

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Jerry Hamilton is retiring as Chaplain for the Bay Area emergency services agencies after 19 years. Pastor Jerry is credited as the founder and coordinator of Coos Bay's Chaplaincy program. Our Chaplains assist Coos Bay and North Bend Police and Fire Departments as well as Oregon State Police and the Coos County Sherriff's office with death notification, grief counseling, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, religious support, and funeral services. The area has three volunteer Chaplains that are on-call and rotate these responsibilities.

Pastor Jerry was a career firefighter in the Park Rose area of Portland while he attended Bible School. He left the fire service for full-time ministry serving in Ethiopia, but a revolution there forced his return to the states. In 1988 Jerry earned two doctorate degrees in Ministry and English Bible from the California Graduate School of Theology.

Jerry and his wife Carol came to the Coos Bay/North Bend area in 1993 to serve as senior pastor of Skyline Baptist Church in North Bend. In 1995, he was one of several area pastors recruited by Captain Bob Mill of the Coos Bay Fire Department to start the Chaplain program. Jerry was instrumental in getting the group organized and registered. He wrote their bylaws and guidelines, insured that Chaplains were adequately trained in counseling, and developed relationships with the area Police and Fire Departments. He has been an unofficial promoter of our uniformed officers, and he was a key figure in the aftermath of the Far West fire that claimed the lives of three of our firefighters. Pastor Jerry retired from Skyline Baptist Church and full-time ministry in 2007, but he continues to teach in churches along the South Coast as a fill-in or substitute.

At 77 years old, and with growing health concerns, Jerry has decided that it is time to pass along his responsibilities as Chaplain. Lieutenant Kevin Pope of the Salvation Army, an active Chaplain with the program for the past four years, will take over as the program coordinator. The Police and Fire services personnel from around the community are grateful for Dr. Hamilton's service, and we hope that he is able to enjoy his retirement.