Traffic Engineer Earl Newman to Retire in February

Assistant Public Works Director and City Traffic Engineer Earl Newman has announced his retirement after nearly 30 years with the City, effective Feb. 12, 2010.

Newman joined the City in 1974 as City Traffic Engineer. In 1992, he left to spend more than six years working in the private sector. He returned to the City in 1998 as Assistant Public Works Director over Traffic Engineering and is now completing a distinguished career as one of the nation’s top traffic engineers.

In 2009, Newman was named one of the Top 10 Public Works Leaders in the United States by the American Public Works Association. He also served for six years on the board of directors for the International Institute of Transportation Engineers, including service as International President in 2007. Newman was inducted into the University of Missouri Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni in 2006.

“Springfield has been very fortunate to have a person of Earl’s caliber serving as Traffic Engineer for so many years,” City Manager Greg Burris said. “It will be difficult to replace his experience, his expertise and particularly his passion and achievements in the areas of traffic safety and education. Springfield has received national recognition for initiatives Earl has undertaken in areas like school safety and I congratulate him on his leadership in the industry and his record of service for our citizens.”

The Traffic Engineering Division is responsible for the planning, design, installation, regulation, operation and maintenance of traffic-control devices. Working with the Missouri Department of Transportation, Newman oversees the city staff working in the Transportation Management Center, including the computerized traffic signal system, crash remediation and safety education, school-crossing protection, work-zone traffic management, the parking management system and construction inspection of traffic engineering projects.

“Earl is the consummate public servant and professional engineer who has always had the public interest at the forefront,” Public Works Director Marc Thornsberry said. “His dedication and professional expertise will be a significant loss to the City and to the public at large.”

The City is required to have a Traffic Engineer under City Code Sec. 106-71. Thornsberry has named Martin Gugel, Professional Engineer – Traffic Engineering, and Jason Haynes, Professional Engineer - Signal System, as Co-Interim Traffic Engineers effective at the close of business on Feb. 12. Both are currently staff members in the Traffic Engineering Division.
Newman has agreed to continue to work as a part-time special projects engineer for a short time to assist with the transition to new leadership in the Traffic Engineering Division.

For more information, contact: Assistant Public Works Director Earl Newman, 864-1980; or Director of Public Work Marc Thornsberry, 864-1902.