



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Thursday, March 24, 2016

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### **RETIRED FIRE ENGINES DONATED TO SISTER CITY EMPALME, MEXICO**

(Stockton, CA) – The City of Stockton is donating two fire engines retired from the Stockton Fire Department fleet to Empalme, Mexico, a Stockton Sister City. Volunteers who are retired from the fire services and from the Stockton area will drive the trucks south to meet the Empalme firefighters at the border of the United States and Mexico. Empalme firefighters will complete the journey to their hometown in the state of Sonora, Mexico, a 1,087 mile journey from Stockton.

“We’ve been able to replace a few of our engines over the last few years,” said Chief Erik Newman. “The donated engines are over 20-years old. For a busy fire department like Stockton, the engines had seen better days and were not reliable enough to meet the demands and response times for our urban service area. We’re happy that another fire service agency can make use of them. While aged and battle-tested, they still have some life left in them for Empalme.”

In addition to the fire engines, some fire hoses, equipment and medical supplies, compatible with the engine, will also be donated. The cost of travel from Mexico to Stockton has been made possible through coordination with the Stockton Sister Cities Association and the generosity of Union Pacific Railroad. The engines and associated equipment are valued at \$5,000 each.

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During a visit to Stockton in 2014, representatives from Empalme met with Stockton Firefighters for a station visit. “While they were at the station, they saw the new engines and inquired about the old engines,” said Fire Captain Dan Morriss. “The timing was perfect. As it turned out, the Stockton Municipal Code already had provisions for donating surplus equipment to our Sister Cities. It took some time to complete the paperwork and transfer title, but it has been worth it. Rather than sending the engines out to auction, we are able to provide Empalme with much-needed equipment. It’s a great feeling to know that the engines will be put to good use.”

On Monday, March 28, at 9:00 a.m., the Stockton Fire Department will turn over the keys to the engines at Stockton Fire Department, Station No. 2, 110 W. Sonora. All those who would like to bid farewell to these retire engines and see them off on their journey are welcome to attend.

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