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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Palestine Selects New Economic Development Director

PALESTINE, Texas (October 15, 2014) –The Palestine City Council has approved the hiring of Tom Manskey as the new Economic Development Director for the City. Manskey, who will report to City Manager Wendy Ellis, is expected to assume his new role on October 14th, 2014.

Manskey was the lone finalist in a pool of 24 applicants from 11 different states, after a nationwide search conducted by Strategic Government Resources (SGR). SGR is an executive search and training firm based out of Keller, Texas, specializing in helping local governments be more successful by recruiting, assessing and developing, innovative, collaborative, authentic leaders.

Manskey has more than 27 years of experience in economic and business development. His most recent position was Managing Director of Global Business Development for Vista in Austin, Texas. Manskey previously served as Executive Director of the Rockdale Municipal Development District, and President and CEO of the Economic Development Partnerships in both Round Rock, Texas, and Fort Smith, Arkansas. Manskey has also held executive leadership positions in Lufkin, Rockwall, Port Arthur, and Daingerfield.

According to City Manager Wendy Ellis, who was Palestine's previous Economic Development Director, Manskey is the ideal person to lead the City's development efforts. Ellis said, "Tom's vast experience makes him uniquely qualified to become Palestine's next Economic Development Director. He has spearheaded and implemented successful strategic economic development plans and projects in multiple communities and has the background and skill set needed to take Palestine's development efforts to the next level."

Manskey obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Planning and Geography from Texas State University and holds Institute for Organizational Management credentials from Southern Methodist University. He is a member of the Texas Economic Development Council and has served as a board member for a number of professional associations including the Texas Association of Business, Dallas Area Economic Developers, Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, Arkansas Economic Developers Association, and was the former board chair for the Institute for Organizational Management at the University of Arizona.

For more information about the Palestine Economic Development Corporation please call 903-729-4100 or visit www.palestinetexas.net.

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