



NEWS RELEASE

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Stockton Police Chief Announces Retirement *Assistant Chief to Serve as Interim Police Chief*

STOCKTON, Calif. – After nearly thirty years in law enforcement – a decade serving as Chief of the Stockton Police Department, Chief Eric Jones has announced that he will retire at the end of 2021. Assistant Chief James Chraska will serve as interim Police Chief while the City of Stockton conducts a nation-wide search for a new Chief of Police.

“The City of Stockton has been fortunate to have a Police Chief who has had a long and exemplary career in law enforcement and with the city,” shared City Manager Harry Black. “Chief Jones is recognized nationally for his leadership, integrity and expertise. He leads the department in contemporary policing methods, the principled-policing philosophy, and he began Real-Time-Policing concepts at the Stockton Police Department. Chief Jones is frequently called upon throughout the state and the nation as a speaker and has published numerous articles in his field. His will be tough shoes to fill.”

Chief Jones joined the Stockton Police Department in 1993, assuming increasing levels of responsibility within the department, starting as a Police Officer, Training Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, and becoming Chief in March of 2012. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Public Administration degree from National University. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, California Police Chiefs

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Association, and has served as President of the Central and Sierra Police Chiefs Association, representing 62 municipal police departments. He holds certificates from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and the FBI's National Academy Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

Under his leadership the Stockton Police Department rose from a staff of 320 filled positions in 2012 to a total of 434 today. His approach has always been to consider the needs of the community first, forming the Stockton Police Department Community Advisory Board in 2012, and, since 2020, working side-by-side with City Manager Harry Black on the City Manager's Review Board to address community-police relations. He created the Stockton Police Department's first Community Response Teams and Police Foundation. In 2012, he authored the Violence Reduction Initiative for Stockton, and, in 2015, he led "Principled Policing" with the State Department of Justice statewide training. Chief Jones ensures that Stockton is part of the National Network for Safe Communities and a national site for the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice.

Chief Jones shared in his letter and notice of retirement, "I am extremely thankful to have led such a great organization and working for our community. The men and women of the Stockton Police Department continue to give selfless dedication every day for the safety of our citizens and the community partnerships we have formed and the trust-building work we have done has helped move our City forward."

"We are grateful to Chief for his years of service to the City of Stockton and the Stockton Police Department," continued City Manager Black. "The fact that he is leaving us with a strong leadership team is a testament to his character and abilities. We look forward to working with him these next few months and wish him well in the future."

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