



## Municipal Information Services

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## **Ryan Holt to be Recommended as New Waco Police Chief**

After an extensive 5 month search that included 83 candidates submitted by the national search firm, Slavin Management Consultants, City Manager Dale Fisseler is recommending that current Assistant Chief Ryan Holt be Waco's new Police Chief. His recommendation will go to the City Council at its next meeting on December 20th for ratification.

After Chief Brent Stroman retired at the end of his 39 year career of service with the Waco Police Department on July 31, 2016, Assistant Chief Frank Gentsch was appointed Interim Chief and a national search was begun. This past week the search narrowed to three finalists, two of which were current Assistant Chiefs, each with more than 20 year of experience with Waco PD.

City Manager Fisseler said, "Through the years, Chief Stroman developed a strong leadership team that provided two exceptional candidates that clearly rose to the top of our extensive selection process. We are fortunate to have had Interim Chief Gentsch lead the department during this process and have had two internal candidates, each capable of continuing the strong leadership of the department. Ryan has served in every division of Waco PD and will make a great Chief."

City of Waco HR Director, Missie Pustejovsky said, "Candidates were interviewed by two panels. One panel was comprised of the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and the three Assistant City Managers. The other panel was comprised of six Department Directors including the Fire Chief and a representative from the Police Association." Early on, community and business leaders were also involved in the selection process.

Ryan Holt began his law enforcement career with WPD. He started as a police officer in 1996 and advanced steadily through the ranks. He achieved the rank of Assistant Chief of Police in 2008. In addition, Holt's assignments have included a wide spectrum of functions including Detective, Crisis/Hostage Negotiator, Public Information Officer, Lone Star Fugitive Task Force as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal, and SWAT Supervisor. His career with WPD has provided Holt with experience in both operations and administration.

Holt is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) - Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP). He holds a Master of Criminal Justice Degree from Tarleton State University and a Bachelor of Criminal Justice Degree from Stephen F. Austin University.

The City Council will consider Fisseler's recommendation to ratify his selection of Holt at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

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