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New Perris Police Chief to Take the Reins

Perris elected officials and administrators welcomed Brandon Ford as their new police chief during a City Council meeting earlier this month.

Ford replaces outgoing chief Mike Judge, who is retiring due to personal reasons.

Ford and Judge are both Riverside County Sheriff Department captains who serve as police chief as part of a contract for law-enforcement services. Ford was introduced to the City on Dec. 8 during the Perris City Council meeting. His tenure as chief begins Dec. 24.

He's hitting the ground running.

In an interview from the Perris Police Headquarters on Perris Boulevard, Ford said he's already been invited by Mayor Daryl Busch to visit a small business and to take part in the dedication of the Metrolink/91 Perris Valley Line last week. He's also attended a meeting of the group Cops and Clergy, a commuter group started by City Councilwoman Rita Rogers.

He's also impressed with the commitment the City is making to improve historic D Street and revitalize its Downtown area.

"The care and funding invested in the Downtown shows people are really invested in their community," Ford said.

Ford joined the sheriff's department in 1996 and since that time has served in various locations and capacities in that time. He worked as a patrol officer, a gang-suppression specialist, a homicide investigator, internal affairs, patrol and administrative services supervisor. He was assigned to the Moreno Valley station prior to taking the reins in Perris.



New Perris Police Chief Brandon Ford pictured outside the Perris Police Station, where he assumes the title as Top Cop on Dec. 24.

Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff praised Ford's experience and commitment.

"Captain Ford has extensive experience, working varied assignments within the Sheriff's Department, including patrol, special enforcement teams, the homicide unit, the Moreno Valley Police Station and the department's Professional Standards Bureau," Sniff said. "He has performed meritoriously at each assignment and his wide range of experience, which include providing police services to our partner cities, will serve him well and prove to be an asset to the community."

The Perris station comprises a trio of cities (Perris, Menifee and Canyon Lake), unincorporated communities and wide range of neighborhoods and a diverse population. Unincorporated areas include Gavilan Hills, Glen Valley, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Winchester, Woodcrest, Lakeview, Homeland and Nuevo. The Perris Sheriff's Station provides service and protection to nearly 270,000 residents and covers almost 250 square miles of Riverside County. The station also serves as the site of the Sheriff's Department Forensic Services section, which is responsible for the collection, preservation and identification of evidence for all Sheriff's stations in western Riverside County.

The station encompasses residential and commercial areas, logistics centers, major roadways as well as less-densely populated and rural communities. No matter what the makeup of the neighborhood or the demands placed on the officers under his command,

Ford said he has no doubt they will respond in a thoroughly professional manner.

"These are the people we entrust to keep the peace," Ford said. "They are willing and capable."



Newly appointed Perris Police Chief Brandon Ford addresses the Perris City Council while outgoing chief Mike Judge looks on.

Ford grew up in San Jacinto and as a child, spent time in Liberia while his parents served as missionaries in that African country. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from California State University, San Bernardino. Ford and his family live in Murrieta and attend Venture Christian Church. Ford volunteers his time in the community whenever possible. He and his wife are the parents of raised two daughters and a son. Ford's parents, sisters and wife's family live in nearby communities.

Outgoing Chief Mike Judge, who introduced Ford to Mayor Daryl Busch and members of the Perris City Council, said that in his nearly 30 years as a police officer, he has never seen a group of elected officials, administrators and municipal staff as community-oriented as those who serve in Perris.

"It has been a privilege and honor to serve you," Judge said. "The leaders of this City are present at every community event. I have never met a better group of people who defined what it means to be a public servant."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said he has no doubt that Ford will succeed as chief.

"He's a guy who's grown up in this area, has an excellent resume and a law-enforcement officer and he will make an excellent addition to our police station and our community," Busch said.

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