



Perris News

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Perris PD's Second-in-Command Accepts Promotion

Perris police said goodbye this week to the department's second-in-command as Lt. John Ruffcorn left to accept a promotion in Northern California.

Ruffcorn ended his 23-year career with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department—which provides law enforcement service to Perris under a contract with the City—to become a captain with the tiny Auburn Police Department.

He leaves a department of 4,000 employees for one with just 38. But Auburn, like small city police departments across the country, is struggling with issues that impact its ability to keep residents and property safe.

Those include changing demographics, the movement of crime from big cities to small towns and coping with the economic slide.

Ruffcorn, 42, said his training in Perris leaves him well qualified to tackle his new assignment. The City coped with all those problems while significantly reducing its crime rate during his time here. "I will absolutely miss this place," Ruffcorn said at his last Perris City Council meeting, where he received a certificate of appreciation for his contributions to the City. "I've never seen a better relationship between the citizens, City staff and local government. It seems everybody is working on the same page with ultimately the same goal in mind—zero crime."

Ruffcorn served as a liaison with Perris' "Cops and Clergy" group, an informal organization aimed at creating bridges between law enforcement and Perris residents. His previous experience also includes time as a correctional deputy as well as extensive time as an administrator. He earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from California Baptist University and completed a term at the FBI Academy. Perris Police Capt. James McElvain said Ruffcorn's dedication to the community is outstanding and will be missed.

"It's a sad day for me," he said. "John is one of the hardest workers I've ever had the pleasure of working with. He's been very good to our station. Our loss is their gain."

Mayor Daryl Busch presented Ruffcorn with the certificate of appreciation for his "exceptional accomplishments and dedication to the City of Perris."



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch reads a certificate of appreciation honoring outgoing Perris Police Lt. John Ruffcorn.

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Close this Page

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