

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Sergeant James Haxton Appointed as New North Plains Police Chief

January 28, 2021

Effective February 1, 2021, the North Plains City Council welcomes Sergeant James Haxton as the City's new Police Chief in partnership with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Current Chief Jesse Baker will remain in position through March 1, 2021, to assist with the transition.

"We value our small-town community policing values, and knowing that North Plains will be the benefactor of his valued experience, leadership, and diverse background makes me very excited to welcome Sergeant Haxton to our community," said North Plains Mayor Teri Lenahan.

Sergeant Haxton brings a great deal of experience, having served in the Sheriff's Office Patrol Division for the last 22 years. His diverse law enforcement career has included work on various special teams, including Mobile Field Force, Honor Guard, Canine Team, Tactical Negotiations Team, Defensive Tactics Trainer, Marine Patrol Supervisor, and Supervisor of Search and Rescue. Sergeant Haxton also served 20 years and retired from the Army National Guard, achieving the notable rank of Master Sergeant (E-8).



"I am incredibly excited for this unique opportunity," said Sergeant Haxton, "Chief Baker has worked with the City to establish a great public safety system, and I look forward to partnering with the community to further what they've already established."

"The community is getting an extremely qualified individual who also brings a new outlook," said current Chief Jesse Baker, "This transition is going to make our partnership even better, and I'm honored to have Sergeant Haxton assume this role; truly, what a privilege to have someone of his caliber."

Though shifting to a different role within the Sheriff's Office, Chief Baker will continue patrolling the area and is adamant this is not goodbye. He is also eager to learn and grow in a new role as supervisor of the Washington County Search and Rescue Team.



MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613

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The City of North Plains began their partnership with the Sheriff's Office in July of 2019, contracting them to provide police services. The North Plains Police Department serves more than 3,500 residents with three designated full-time employees. The police chief reports directly to the North Plains City Manager and leads the work of the Police Department with support from and in partnership with the Washington County Sheriff's Office.



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