



For Immediate Release

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### **Chief Chuck Baker to Retire from the Cody Police Department**

June 6, 2023 (**Cody, WYOMING**) – After seven years of dedicated service to the Cody community and a 43-year-long career, Police Chief Chuck Baker has announced his retirement from the Cody Police Department, effective June 30. Chief Baker's tenure has been marked by his unwavering commitment to public safety and his tireless efforts to enhance the effectiveness and professionalism of the police force.

During his final year before his planned retirement, Chief Baker proactively requested an external management audit of the Cody Police Department to improve systems and processes within the department to best serve the community. Over the last several months, Chief Baker has worked to implement the recommended structural changes to the organization to help facilitate a seamless transition of leadership.

The new two-division structure implements two lieutenants, allowing sergeants to devote more time in the field supervising officers. This strategic shift enables a greater focus on professional standards areas, including internal affairs investigations, policy and procedure, training, criminal investigations, property, and evidence. The new two-divisional structure aims to enhance the department's efficiency, improve community relations, and foster a positive working environment for the dedicated officers serving the Cody community.

In accordance with these structural changes, the City of Cody is pleased to announce that Lieutenant Jason Stafford, a veteran member of the Cody Police Department, will assume the role of Chief of Police following Chief Baker's retirement. With a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the community's needs, Lieutenant Stafford is well-positioned to lead the department. Additionally, we are proud to announce that Sergeant Beau Egger and Sergeant Juston Wead will move into the role of lieutenants, providing valuable support as part of the leadership team.

Lieutenant Stafford, Sergeant Egger, and Sergeant Wead are all long-time Cody residents and have demonstrated a strong commitment to public service throughout

their careers. Their extensive knowledge of the community and dedication to upholding the values of the Cody Police Department will ensure the continued provision of exceptional law enforcement services.

The City of Cody expresses its utmost gratitude to Chief Chuck Baker for his exemplary service and contributions to the community during his time as Police Chief. We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement and are confident that the foundations he has laid will continue to guide the Cody Police Department toward a safe and prosperous future.