

# **PRESS RELEASE**

Nov. 15, 2006

## **El Centro Council Names City's New Police Chief**

The El Centro City Council on Wednesday night announced the appointment of Leonard Knight as the City's new Police Chief. He will take office Dec. 1.

Captain Knight comes to the City of El Centro from the City of National City. He replaces Raymond Loera who retired after being elected Imperial County Sheriff in June. As El Centro's new Chief, Knight will oversee 72 sworn and non-sworn employees and an operating budget of \$8.6 million.

Knight was chosen through an extensive nationwide search coordinated by the Novato-based consulting firm of L.B. Hayhurst & Associates. Knight assumes leadership in El Centro following a distinguished and diverse 24 year career in law enforcement.

Asked about his appointment, Knight said, "I am very excited about this opportunity. I hope to help the Police Department move forward with the City's anticipated growth and development. Teamwork and being very visible in the community will certainly be key components for addressing the public safety concerns for the city". He added, "my initial plan is to meet with the men and women of the organization as well as with city and county administrators and community members and leaders to begin my transition and collaborative process. I eagerly anticipate my start date so I can begin serving the department and the community."

Knight joined the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in 1982 after receiving an associate of arts degree from Wayne County Community College in Michigan. He has worked in various capacities, which includes the Commanding Officer of the Legal Affairs Division, the Officer-in-Charge of the Administrative Section, Training Division, the Officer-in-Charge of the Research and Development Section, Continuing Education Division, the Adjutant for an Assistant Chief of Police and the Section Officer-in-Charge of the Internal Affairs Group.

Knight left the LAPD to become a Captain for the National City Police Department where he has served for the last two years as second in command. At National City he has been in charge of the Administrative and Operations Divisions, which includes the supervision and management of 127 sworn and civilian personnel. Additionally, he is responsible for the management of the Support Section, Internal Affairs, Training and Patrol operations.

City Manager Ruben Duran stated, "after an exhaustive recruitment I believe we have made an excellent choice with Mr. Knight. His credentials and his depth of

experience in both large and smaller Cities provides us with this new resource to continue and improve the quality of public safety services to the community”.

Knight holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from National University, a Master's from California State University-Northridge, and a Doctorate from the University of La Verne. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Los Angeles Police Department West Point Leadership Program.

Knight also is a recognized adjunct professor for major universities in California, instructing in risk and human resource management, organizational behavior, criminal justice and various other business and public administration courses for undergraduate and graduate students.

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