



City of El Centro
1275 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA. 92243

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

El Centro appoints new Deputy Chief of Police

El Centro, CA. – February 4, 2020 – During the Regular Council Meeting for the City of El Centro Mayor Efrain Silva announced that action was taken to approve the contract appointing Robert Sawyer as the new Deputy Chief of Police for the City of El Centro.

“I am very excited to welcome Deputy Chief of Police Robert Sawyer back to the El Centro Police Department and to our great City. I am confident Deputy Chief of Police Sawyer will work with Chief Johnson and the men and women of the Police Department to continue implementing best practices in modern 21st Century policing,” stated Marcela Piedra, City Manager.

In August 2016, the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) conducted a Police Operations and Data Analysis Report for the El Centro Police Department. One of the recommendations was to change the title of the position of Executive Commander to Deputy Chief of Police as this position is the second in command. The position of Executive Commander has been vacant since July 2019 and has been replaced with the position of Deputy Chief of Police.

Deputy Chief of Police Sawyer was selected for this position after a local search and selection process. The Human Resources Department completed the new job description and entire hiring process with the assistance of Chief Johnson. The City Manager reviewed and approved the final selection during the hiring process.

“The City Council is excited to welcome Deputy Chief of Police Sawyer back to El Centro. We look forward to his leadership and management skills to help run the day-to-day operations of our outstanding Police Department. He will work closely with Chief Johnson to provide the strategic vision in working with the City Council on addressing staffing challenges, implementing crime prevention programs, and the construction of a new police station” stated Mayor Efrain Silva.

In 2018, Sawyer was hired by the Brawley Police Department where he served as their Chief of Police. He stated, “It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chief of Police for the City of Brawley and the Brawley Police Department. I truly enjoyed my time spent with the fine men and women of that department. While leaving Brawley is not an easy thing to do, I look forward to returning to the department I began my career with and serving the fine citizens of the City of El Centro.”

Deputy Chief of Police Robert Sawyer has a combined total of 27 years of law enforcement experience. He began his career in 1992 with the El Centro Police Department where he started as a reserve police officer. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management from California Coast University. He describes his leadership style as transformational where the focus is on inspiring, empowering and motivating people through a team concept. Community engagement is a top priority under in his leadership and he believes being involved with the community and giving back to the community are keys to the success of any law enforcement organization. Deputy Chief of Police Sawyer received his Supervisory and Management Certificates from Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

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