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# City of El Paso Names 38-Year Police Veteran as Interim Police Chief

**EL PASO, Texas**—The City of El Paso is pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Pacillas as the City’s Interim Police Chief.

Pacillas, who has been serving as Assistant Police Chief since 2009, graduated from the El Paso Police Academy in 1988 and has served in all ranks within the Police Department. Chief Pacillas has a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Mountain State University.

Pacillas has proven himself in key assignments over his career serving as a member of the Central Patrol Station, Tactical Division, Northeast Substation, Pebble Hills Regional Command, Training Academy, Support Services Division, Directed Investigation Division, Bomb Squad, and SWAT Team.

“The City of El Paso Police Department has an incredibly strong group of senior leaders. We were confident that we would find quality candidates for the interim police chief. We took multiple factors into consideration including strong leadership, strategic planning skills, workforce focus, organizational focus, customer focus, knowledge management considerations, and the results that would come from utilizing these criteria. We believe we had several candidates that could have filled this role,” said City Manager Tommy Gonzalez. “In the end, we selected Chief Pacillas who had these qualities as well as the continuity and stable work environment we want to continue to foster during this interim period. We also believe that Chief Pacillas will shepherd our police and civilian workforce through a transition that will make us better. Chief Pacillas and the senior leadership team would make any leader proud, but we believe they especially made our late Police Chief, Greg Allen, burst with pride as he looks down from above at how well they performed during their interviews and the exceptional work that lies ahead for them. I’m confident Chief Pacillas will demonstrate thoughtful and effective decision-making as well as strong leadership in action. These traits have worked well for him in the past and they will guide him as he leads the uniformed and civilian men and women of our police force.”

Gonzalez said the City has demonstrated time and time again the strength of the organization is in the processes and organizational chart alignments that have been put into place by developing a strong succession plan and a commitment to the City’s talent pipeline management which grows leaders within the organization.

“Pacillas is a great example of the gifted leaders within our successful talent pipeline that has embraced our organization’s leadership development opportunities which inspire collaboration and alignment and integration with our service delivery,” said Deputy City Manager Mario D’Agostino.

The next step in the final selection process for the Police Chief will be to conduct a national search, which will include the opportunity for local leadership to apply.

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