

Mayor Chris Coleman Selects Thomas Smith as Chief of Police

Lifelong Saint Paul resident brings 20 years experience with Saint Paul Police Department

(Saint Paul) - Mayor Chris Coleman announced today that he has selected current Assistant Police Chief Thomas Smith to succeed John Harrington as Chief of Police. The decision comes after months of committee deliberation, public forums and one-on-one interviews conducted by Mayor Coleman.

“The most important decision a Mayor can make is selecting the person who will be trusted with the safety of our City - Tom Smith is the clear choice to hold that trust.

“This was not an easy decision. Having four internal candidates is a testament to the strength of our department and the legacy of leadership that Chief Harrington is leaving behind. The process that brought us to this day wasn't easy, nor is the day to day challenge of serving a department that holds itself to such high standards of integrity and respect. I want to thank all of the candidates for their efforts.

“As a life-long resident of Saint Paul, he represents the best of what our City has to offer. He has lived a life of servant leadership. He has been a leader in every position he's held in the department. He has the respect of our officers, our command staff, our community, and he's ready to lead this department. I look forward to working alongside him as we work together to keep our department strong and our City safe,” Mayor Coleman said.

“I am both proud and excited to serve both our officers and citizens as the 40th Chief of Police. I will do so with the utmost integrity. Not only am I honored by this opportunity, but I am humbled to serve as chief in the city that I love,” Smith said.

A life-long resident of Saint Paul, Smith attended Humboldt High School, Metropolitan State University and the University of St. Thomas, where he earned a graduate degree. In 1996, Smith graduated from the FBI National Academy, focusing on Advanced Management and Global Terrorism. Throughout his career, Smith has sought out new opportunities to continue his learning. He has received certificates from Hills Center for Ethical Leadership Program and the Wilder Foundation James P. Shannon Leadership Institute.

Starting at the Saint Paul Police Department in 1989, Smith began as a Patrol Officer and Selby Beat Officer before being promoted to Sergeant in 1992. In his time on the force, Smith has served as the West Side Patrol Supervisor, the SWAT Team Commander, the Western District Senior Commander and Assistant Chief of Police.

Over his 20 year career in law enforcement, Smith has been heavily decorated, receiving a medal of valor, medal of commendation and four achievement awards for his work in the department.

For Smith, his leadership and community involvement extends beyond the hours of nine to five. As an educator, Smith developed a mentor program at Humboldt High School, serving 50 at-risk boys and girls. Smith takes an active role in the program, meeting individually with the boys each week. Beyond this outreach, Smith has volunteered with the West Side Boys and Girls Club for the past eight years, as an assistant coach of the girls softball team.

As a community member, Smith has served on the Neighborhood House Board of Directors as well as being the manager of the Constance Currie Scholarship, providing money for West Side residents to go to college.

As a police officer, Smith serves on the FBI Civil Rights Advisory Council, working with law enforcement, non-profits and ethnic groups to discuss civil rights issues and solutions to community problems.

Residing on the West Side of Saint Paul in the house he grew up in, Smith lives with his wife and high school sweetheart, Catalina, and their three children.

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