



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2021
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Turu VanderWiel, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Introduction of Police Chaplain

RECOMMENDATION

Introduction of Police Chaplain Randy Ehle.

DISCUSSION

The Police Department has been without an official Police Chaplain for several years. Over the past year, we have been working to re-establish this valuable program within our agency. We have since identified two individuals to perform this function.

Police departments benefit immensely from chaplains' services. Chaplains enhance law enforcement's overall function through involvement in community-police relations, death notifications, line-of-duty burial service facilitation, crisis intervention, and officer and department well-being.

Randy Ehle has been a Pastor of The Journey Church in East Sonora since 2018 and previously pastored in nearby Placerville for five years. While there, Randy was called on to respond to numerous crisis situations, including suicides, missing person searches, and a school shooting. His background includes a career in the financial industry and enlistments in the Air Force and California Air National Guard. Randy has lived throughout the United States, Canada, Germany, and England.

Though relatively new to Sonora, Randy's face and voice have quickly become familiar through substitute teaching throughout the county, announcing for Sonora High School's girl's volleyball and soccer teams, and various other volunteer roles. He is also a member of Habitat for Humanity's Executive Advisory Council.

Randy's broad background helps him to connect quickly with a diverse array of community members. He often describes his role as "a pastor for the community," and it is my pleasure to introduce him tonight.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.