



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION HOSTS CANDIDATE RECEPTION IN NATIONAL SEARCH FOR CHIEF OF POLICE

GRAND JUNCTION, January 3, 2023 – The City of Grand Junction will host finalists for Chief of Police at an upcoming reception on Thursday, January 5, 2023, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Avalon Theater in the Mezzanine on 645 Main Street. The event offers an opportunity for the community to meet the city's candidates in its national search for a new Chief of Police. Final candidates include: Matt Smith, Interim Chief of Police for the City of Grand Junction; and Jim Hughes, former Chief of Police for the City of Maricopa, AZ. Attendees at the event will be asked to complete comment cards for each candidate.

Candidates

Matt Smith is currently the Interim Chief for the City of Grand Junction Police Department having been appointed to that role in September of 2022. Smith joined the Grand Junction Police Department (GJPD) in 1999 after serving with the Cortez Police Department. Smith has been a deputy chief for GJPD for the past three years overseeing both the Operations division as well as the Services division. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the 58th Session of Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police. Smith also attended the National Tactical Officers Association SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership course.

Jim Hughes served for 10 years as the Chief of Police for the City of Maricopa Police Department in Maricopa, AZ. While with Maricopa PD, Hughes oversaw 102 employees, 76 of whom were sworn. He was responsible for the agency's transition to a community-based policing model focused on building relationships with neighboring law enforcement, other city departments and community stakeholders. He also enhanced mental health programs through a partnership to bring a 24/7 mobile crisis team to Maricopa and introduced a 911 mental health call diversion program. Hughes graduated from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a master's degree in Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

After applications closed on Oct. 21, 2022, an initial screening was conducted followed by phone interviews which resulted in three candidates being moved forward to the next steps in the process; however, one candidate withdrew his application.

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