



City of Edmonds Media Release

Mayor's Office ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

To: Media

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EDMONDS MAYOR MIKE NELSON TAPS ACTING POLICE CHIEF JIM LAWLESS FOR PERMANENT POST

City Council Must Still Confirm

(Edmonds, WA) – Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson announced today that Acting Edmonds Police Chief Jim Lawless will be the City's next permanent Police Chief, pending City Council confirmation.

"One measure of a person's worth is how they perform during a crisis," Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson said. "This has been a crisis like no other. Acting Chief Lawless has been a steady, firm hand during a time of uncertainty. I can't imagine a person better suited for this job than Jim."

Chief Lawless has been an Assistant Chief with EPD since 2008 and the Acting Chief of Police since January 1, 2020. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Arts Degree with concentrations in Sociology, Psychology and Criminal Justice from Washington State University.

He is a 2009 graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 236, as well as a 2013 graduate of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar. That same year, as the Assistant Chief, Jim was selected by the officers of EPD as the 2013 Officer of the Year.

"It is my honor and privilege to have this amazing opportunity to lead the fine men and women of the Edmonds Police Department. I am very appreciative of the confidence and support of the Mayor in appointing me to this position. I am also extremely thankful for the confidence and support of the City Council, the members of the Department and the public."

Until this appointment, Jim had served as the Assistant Chief for Field Services (Patrol) and until recently, served as the Commander of the North Sound Metro SWAT Team, comprised of officers from ten jurisdictions, serving a population of over 360,000.

Acting Chief Lawless began his law enforcement career in 1987 with the Key West, Florida Police Department. In May of 1995, Jim relocated to Edmonds, WA, where he began his career with the Edmonds Police Department. Jim quickly assumed the role as Field Training Officer and program coordinator. He also served as a Department instructor (firearms, less-lethal, police RADAR/LIDAR, FTO, defensive tactics, and crisis-intervention at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy), served on the regional SWAT team as a squad leader and the team range master, and was the Department's less-lethal weapons instructor. In January, 2002, Jim was promoted to the rank of Corporal and in May of the same year he was promoted to Sergeant, supervising various patrol squads.

"I am delighted that Acting Chief Lawless has agreed to continue his career in the service of the Edmonds Police Department and all our residents," added Mayor Nelson.

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