

PRESSRELEASE

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MAYOR APPOINTS NEW POLICE CHIEF

Michigan City Mayor Chuck Oberlie announced today the appointment of Michigan City Assistant Police Chief Mark Swistek to the position of Police Chief. Newly appointed Chief Swistek will succeed Police Chief Ben Neitzel, who will retire on July 30 of this year. "I extend my appreciation to Ben for his service to our community and wish him well as a retiree."

Mayor Oberlie stated, "All candidates who applied for the position were interviewed once and four finalists were selected for a second interview. I am very pleased with the extensive depth of knowledge and the experience that is available throughout the department and I look forward to the continued commitment of all of these individuals to the department and the community."

"Officer Swistek has earned respect within the department by being a good listener, a good communicator and his experience working in the field with his fellow officers. He will continue to build upon the strengths of the department thereby enhancing the overall public safety of our city" Oberlie said.

Newly appointed Chief Swistek, an 18-year member of the force, has served the Michigan City Police Department in many critical capacities, including: Chief of Operations (from 2004 to present); Commander of Narcotics Division/Taskforce (1999-2004); Detective/Supervisor within the Investigative Bureau (1997-1999); Special Operations Group/Patrol Division (1995-1997); and Uniform Patrol Division-Patrolman (1992-1995).

Chief Swistek stated that he is ready to accept the challenge and his assignment as Police Chief. As a member of the Michigan City Police Department for the past eighteen years, he has a significant amount of experience and detailed knowledge of how the department functions. "I would like to thank Mayor Charles Oberlie for

allowing me the opportunity to continue serving the men and women of the Michigan City Police Department. For the past six years I have had the honor of serving under the leadership of Chief Ben Neitzel who has served as a mentor and exceptional leader.”

During the months ahead Chief Swistek looks forward to leading the fight to prevent crime and to partner with the community. “I will commit myself to honorably performing the duties with respect for the dignity of all people, wisdom to apply fairness in all that I do to hopefully make a difference in people’s lives. My initial goal is very simple: work hard to identify, address, and resolve the root causes of community issues and concerns while working closely with the communities’ service organizations and citizen groups”.