



CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

For Immediate Release

Contact for further information: Gretchen Spiker, Interim Media Relations Director, gspiker@topeka.org

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Bryan Wheelles hired as Topeka's Police Chief

TOPEKA, Kan. – City Manager Brent Trout announced Tuesday that Bryan Wheelles was selected to be the next Police Chief for the City of Topeka. This selection is supported by a majority of the Governing Body and is effective immediately.

Chief Wheelles joined the Topeka Police Department (TPD) in 1994 and has spent his entire law enforcement career at TPD. Chief Wheelles has 15 years of field operations experience and 10 years of investigations experience. Chief Wheelles rose through TPD's ranks and in 2017 was selected to serve as the Deputy Chief by former Police Chief Bill Cochran. Chief Wheelles had been serving as the Interim Police Chief since January 2021.

"We were fortunate to have such a qualified candidate pool to select from, and I thank all of the applicants for their involvement in the process," said City Manager Brent Trout. "I believe Chief Wheelles has the best all-around skill, experience and vision to lead and manage the department going forward."

The decision to move forward with the hiring process was supported by a majority of the Governing Body, and they support the selection of Chief Wheelles.

"I am incredibly honored to have been selected to become the Chief of Police. I am excited for the opportunity to continue my public service career here in the capital city. I am grateful for the confidence that the employees of the police department and city leadership have shown in me," said Chief Wheelles. "I look forward to even more community conversations to find the best way for the police department and the community to move forward together."

The starting salary for Chief Wheelles will be \$145,754.