



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Harlingen Names New Police Chief**

**Harlingen, Texas**– Harlingen City Manager Dan Serna has named Interim Chief of Police Michael Kester as the department’s new leader. Kester, a 29 year veteran of the department, began his career in Harlingen in 1990 as a patrol officer and has served more than 16 years in an executive leadership role.



He was the second in command under the previous chief who retired in December of 2018.

As the Assistant, he directed the day to day operations of the police department that has an authorized strength of 143-officers and 42 civilian employees.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Unity College in Maine. He is also a graduate of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Bill Blackwood Leadership Command College. He is certified as a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Police Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Accident Investigator, and Field Training Officer. He is also a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

City Manager Serna says Kester worked his way through the ranks and has vast knowledge of the City and a lot of experience in law enforcement. “Mike’s entire law enforcement career has been in Harlingen. He’s seen the growth of the City, as well as the department, so he knows the strengths and weaknesses which I believe will help him hit the road running. He is also a progressive thinker which will ensure that the officers have the training and tools needed to do the job of a police officer in this day and age.”

Kester will begin his new role as the Harlingen Chief of Police on May 15, 2019. The City of Harlingen welcomes Chief Michael Kester.

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