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STERLING HEIGHTS

Council confirms city's new police chief

John Berg voted in unanimously

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The Sterling Heights City Council voted unanimously on April 19 to confirm John Berg as the city's new police chief.

"The Sterling Heights Police Department is one of the most respected departments in the country, and to be chosen to lead this department is a supreme honor and privilege," said Berg, a 27-year veteran of the department.

Prior to his appointment, Berg had served as the department's interim chief following the retirement of former Chief Michael Reese in December 2015. As chief, Berg's salary will be \$118,422 per year.

"John Berg has performed admirably during the five months that he has served as the interim police chief," City Manager Mark Vanderpool said. "During this time, Mr. Berg has displayed the traits that are essential to preserving the excellent level of service that is the hallmark of the Sterling Heights Police Department."

ment career as a police officer with the Sterling Heights Police Department in 1989 and progressed quickly through the ranks to become a sergeant in 1995, a lieutenant in 2000, and a captain in 2009.

"Along the way, Mr. Berg has established an impressive record of academic and professional achievements," Vanderpool said.

Berg holds a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in interdisciplinary studies. He has completed training at the FBI Academy and the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command. He has also been recognized with numerous awards, including: two Chief's Awards, three Unit Merit Citations, one Merit Citation, seven Letters of Commendation, and seven Performance Ribbons. In addition, he has received community awards from the Thin Blue Line of Michigan and Warren Consolidated School District.

"I think, without knowing it, over the years of just doing his job and doing it well, (Berg) has prepared himself for this opportunity."



FILE PHOTO - THE SOURCE

The Sterling Heights City Council voted unanimously on April 19 to confirm John Berg as the city's new police chief.

According to city officials, Berg was one of three internal candidates who participated in a day-long assessment conducted by Empco Inc., a Troy-based company that specializes in independent testing services for public safety and municipal government agencies. An external applicant also was assessed.

"Based upon their respective

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Sterling Heights Mayor Michael Taylor

scored Capt. Dale Dwojakowski, Capt. John Berg and Capt. Dave Smith as the top three candidates," Vanderpool said.

In addition to an assessment, the top three candidates were also subjected to a written exercise and an oral interview by a panel comprised of City Manager Vanderpool, Assistant City Manager/Human Resources Director Walt Blessed, and City Attorney Jeff Bahorski.

"Based on the results of this arduous evaluative process ... the city can and should be proud that the Sterling Heights Police Department is under the command of three outstanding internal candidates," Vanderpool wrote. "While confident that Berg, Dwojakowski, and Smith are all well-qualified and capable of competently leading the Police Department, the city manager can

the position, noting the officer's distinguished 27-year career with the department, as well as his "wealth of command and leadership experience in all divisions and bureaus of the department, including administration, operations and investigations."

"Berg's management experience in every facet of departmental operations is crucial to an organization whose management structure will be largely comprised of newly-promoted command officers by 2017," Vanderpool said. "Mr. Berg has also integrated himself into the city's leadership team, which is very important due to the interdependence of the city's departments in ensuring the delivery of quality public services."

In accordance with both the City Charter and the collective bargaining agreement between

Chief

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was required to confirm the appointment.

"On behalf of my City Council colleagues, I am pleased to have John Berg lead one of the largest police departments in the state and continue Sterling Heights' safe city distinction," Mayor Michael Taylor said. "When it comes to public safety, our residents and businesses expect the best, and I am confident John Berg will provide the necessary leadership to

continue this longstanding tradition of excellence."

Berg's role as police chief was effective as of April 20.

"I look forward to working with the finest men and women in the business," Berg said. "We have many challenges to face as we rebuild the department through the succes-

sion process. I know that, because of these dedicated officers, we will come out of this with a more professional, proactive police department and continue to be the model of policing that other departments strive to be, and that our residents have come to deserve and expect."

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