



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chief of Police Services Matt McDaniel Announces Retirement and Laguna Niguel Selects Virgil Asuncion as Next Chief of Police Services



Lt. Matt McDaniel

Laguna Niguel, CA – The Chief of Police Services for the City of Laguna Niguel, Lieutenant Matt McDaniel, will be retiring in early-January 2021 after nearly 30 years of public service with the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Chief McDaniel spent the early part of his law enforcement career in Laguna Niguel, where he first served the City for 12 years. Following his promotion to the rank of Sergeant, Chief McDaniel then served the City of Yorba Linda, only to later return to the City of Laguna Niguel in January 2018 to serve as the City's Chief of Police Services.

In his role as Chief of Police Services for the City of Laguna Niguel, Chief McDaniel built an incredible team of public safety professionals, upheld the highest standard of integrity for law enforcement in the City, and established long-standing and meaningful connections with members of the community. "From starting as a deputy here many years ago, to ending my career here as the City's Chief of Police Services, Laguna Niguel will always hold a special place in my heart. I want to thank everyone for the tremendous support our team has received during my time here. From City Council, to our City leaders and especially our great citizens, you have helped make a tough job easier, and have always given us a belief that what we do is valued and needed. I am so proud of the work our men and women of the Orange County Sheriff's Department have done during my time in the City. I leave here knowing the care and commitment they bring to the job every day will continue long after I am gone, and Laguna Niguel will continue to be the safe, beautiful City it has always been," said Chief McDaniel.

During the December 15 City Council Meeting, Mayor Fred Minagar announced Chief McDaniel's retirement to the community and acknowledged his exemplary leadership and many contributions to the City. "As the Mayor of the great City of Laguna Niguel, and on behalf of my fellow City Council colleagues, I would like to thank Chief Matt McDaniel for everything that he has done for our city's residents, businesses and visitors," said Mayor Minagar. "And although we will miss him, a lot, we wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement."



Lt. Virgil Asuncion

With the forthcoming retirement of Chief McDaniel, the City of Laguna Niguel has selected Lieutenant Virgil Asuncion to be the next Chief of Police Services.

Lt. Asuncion is a law enforcement veteran who has served numerous Orange County communities over the past two decades, including Aliso Viejo, San Juan Capistrano, and Laguna Niguel. Throughout his career in public safety, Lt. Asuncion has climbed the ranks in the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He comes to the City with valuable experience in the City municipality realm, as well as with diverse experience throughout the varying divisions of the Sheriff's Department.

"I am excited to return to the place where I was given so many amazing opportunities, and I look forward to continuing the great relationship the Orange County Sheriff's Department shares with the City of Laguna Niguel," said Lt. Asuncion.

Mayor Fred Minagar announced the selection of Lt. Asuncion as the next Chief of Police Services during the December 15 City Council meeting. "I am confident that the high level of safety and security that Laguna Niguel residents enjoy and expect will be maintained through Lt. Asuncion's leadership," said Mayor Minagar.

Lt. Asuncion holds numerous public safety supervisory certificates and has served the role of instructor for various functions including the Supervisory School, Situational Awareness for Patrol, and Santa Ana College. Additionally, Lt. Asuncion, a graduate of the University of California – Irvine, is currently completing his Master of Science in the field of Criminal Justice. He has been married to his wife, Natasha, for 19 years and they have three sons. Lt. Asuncion will resume his role as the new Chief of Police Services on January 7, 2021.

Mayor Fred Minagar and the entire City Council will honor and recognize outgoing Chief McDaniel and new Chief Asuncion during the City Council meeting in January.

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