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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Coon Rapids Selects New Police Chief**

**Chief Brad Wise Announces Retirement, Capt. John Stahnke Named Successor**

[COON RAPIDS, MN, June 10, 2022] Coon Rapids Police Chief Brad Wise will retire at the end of June after a distinguished 27-year career with the Coon Rapids Police Department. Following a competitive selection process, the City chose Coon Rapids Police Captain John Stahnke as the next chief of police.

City Manager Matt Stemwedel made the announcement this week. “We are proud to announce the promotion of Capt. John Stahnke,” Stemwedel said. “Chief Stahnke will continue the tradition of professionalism citizens expect from our police department. John is from this community, invested in its success and will lead with compassion. We are also grateful to Chief Wise for his steadfast leadership and are committed to maintaining the high standards he set for our department.”

Chief Wise began his law enforcement career working briefly for the Robbinsdale Police Department before he was hired in his hometown of Coon Rapids in 1995. He remained in Coon Rapids for the duration of his career and has served as police chief since 2011.

“It has meant a lot to me to be able to do this job in my hometown, doing what I can to make a difference,” Wise said. “I’m truly blessed to work for the City of Coon Rapids. We’ve enjoyed tremendous support from the community. We also have the greatest staff ever from top to bottom; I take great pride in each one of our officers and support staff.”

Incoming Chief Stahnke also grew up in Coon Rapids. He has served in the department since 1993, first as a community service officer and later sworn in as a full-time police officer in 1995. Stahnke currently leads the professional standards division, is the deputy director of emergency management and serves as public information officer. Stahnke also launched the department’s first multicultural advisory committee in 2021.

“It is a great honor and a privilege to be the next police chief,” Stahnke said. “I have spent my entire law enforcement career in this police department, and I know we all share a passion for partnering with the community to keep Coon Rapids a safe and thriving city to live and work. I am committed to upholding our tradition of professionalism and appreciate the trust and support our citizens have in this department.”

Wise and Stahnke will work together to transition duties during the next few weeks. Chief Wise’s last day is June 30.

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