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Oxnard City Manager Alexander Nguyen Appoints Former Oxnard Assistant Police Chief Eric Sonstegard as Assistant City Manager

OXNARD, Calif. – The City of Oxnard is pleased to announce the appointment of former Oxnard Assistant Police Chief Eric Sonstegard as its new Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Sonstegard brings with him 26 years of experience with the Oxnard Police Department, where he retired as Assistant Chief of Police in 2022. Following his time in Oxnard, he served as Police Chief for the City of Edgewater, Colorado since May 2022 and he will be stepping down in December to rejoin Oxnard in a key leadership role.

“We’re very pleased Eric is coming back; he knows Oxnard, he knows City Hall, and he’s a proven executive leader,” said City Manager Alexander Nguyen. “Eric will provide strong leadership, clear direction, and an abundance of support for the City.”

Sonstegard made significant contributions during his tenure with the Oxnard Police Department, including the development of a nationally recognized Cultural Proficiency curriculum. He spearheaded Oxnard’s first “Summer at City Hall” program, transformed police training programs, and created the Asset Forfeiture Community Funds Grant program to support initiatives aimed at combating drug abuse and gang activity. He was also instrumental in fostering leadership within the department, improving camaraderie, and enhancing training opportunities for officers.

“It’s an incredible honor to have the opportunity to come back and serve the city that has given me and my family so much over the years,” said Sonstegard. “Alex and his team have done so much great work in the community and I can’t wait to contribute to their future successes.”

Sonstegard, who was born and raised in Ventura County, remained active for years in the community as a former board member of the Oxnard/Port Hueneme Salvation Army Corps and a 20-year member of the Oxnard Sunrise Rotary Club. His return to Oxnard marks a homecoming. “I’ve always said that Oxnard runs through my veins. This city holds a special place in my heart, and I’m truly humbled to have the chance to live and work here once again,” he shared.

As Assistant City Manager, Sonstegard will oversee the City’s Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology departments beginning January 6, 2025.



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