



CITY of RAPID CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Sam Kooiker

Mayor Kooiker appoints Interim Chief Karl Jegeris as next Chief of Police

Rapid City, S.D. – Mayor Sam Kooiker announces Interim Police Chief Karl Jegeris has been selected to lead the Rapid City Police Department as the next Chief of Police, pending confirmation by the City Council. Jegeris has served as the Interim Chief since May 30, and as the Assistant Chief of Police since 2012. Jegeris is one of three highly qualified candidates selected by the Police Chief Interview Panel for the mayor's consideration.

Jegeris began his career with the RCPD in 1995, and over the last 18 years has held the positions of Patrol Officer, School Liaison Officer at West Middle School, Juvenile Detective, Juvenile Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, and Patrol Captain. As the Assistant Chief, Jegeris served as

Commander of the Support Services Division and primary assistant to the previous Chief of Police.

Jegeris also has 10 years of experience on the Rapid City/Pennington County Special Response Team, including five years as the crisis negotiations team leader. He served as an adjunct instructor in the law enforcement program at Western Dakota Technical Institute for several years. As a lieutenant, Jegeris received an Exceptional Duty Medal for creating and implementing the RCPD/Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety Officer Exchange Program. As a result of that program, OST Tribal Council presented the RCPD with an Oglala Sioux Tribe flag to recognize the cooperation between Rapid City Police and Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety. This flag is proudly displayed in the Administration Office of the Rapid City Police Department.

“Chief Jegeris is a talented leader and an outstanding choice to helm the RCPD,” Kooiker said. “I am confident Jegeris has the skills and experience necessary to lead a large agency and continue the department's standard of excellence in public safety.”

Jegeris earned a Bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minn., and is actively pursuing a Master's degree in Public Safety Executive Leadership from Saint Cloud State University in Saint Cloud, Minn. Jegeris also graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, in 2013.

"It's an honor to be chosen to continue leading the Rapid City Police Department," Jegeris said. "We have exceptional employees that are committed to exceeding expectations for service to our community, and I'm extremely proud to be a member of this department."

Jegeris' involvement in the Rapid City community includes serving as a current board member of Working Against Violence Inc. (WAVI), member of the South Dakota West River Human Trafficking Task Force, committee member of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), advisory board member of the Salvation Army, Junior Achievement classroom mentor, 2003 Leadership Rapid City graduate, and past Big Brother with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Black Hills.

As Chief of Police, Jegeris will continue to oversee a staff of 153 FTE's, including 119 sworn officers.