



CITY OF COSTA MESA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Tom Gazsi to be sworn in Tuesday as Costa Mesa's 6th police chief

COSTA MESA, CALIF.—Tom Gazsi will be sworn in as Costa Mesa's new police chief Tuesday at a public ceremony and reception in the Council Chambers at 3 p.m. before the council meeting.

In its 58-year history, Costa Mesa has had only five permanent police chiefs—and three of them spent a combined half-century keeping watch over the city.

Gazsi, 51, started as an Explorer Scout for the Newport Beach Police Department in 1977 and eventually became a captain, serving as the Support Services Division commander with responsibility for management services, communications, records, property and evidence, personnel and training, planning and research, facilities, and fiscal services.

Gazsi has lived in the Costa Mesa and Newport Beach area since 1960. He attended schools in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (Woodland and Mariners Elementary, Ensign Intermediate and Newport Harbor High). He ran track and played tennis for the Sailors in high school. He attended Orange Coast College and graduated with a bachelor's degree from USC's School of Public Policy and Management.

He started as a police cadet with Newport Beach in 1979, served as a reserve officer from 1980 to 1985, and was hired as a fulltime police officer in 1985. As an officer, he worked in a variety of divisions and assignments, including beat coordinator, field training officer, accident investigator, traffic education officer, Patrol Crime Suppression Unit, R.A.C.E.S. coordinator, chaplain coordinator, Trauma Support Team member and burglary detective.

In 1998 he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the Patrol Division. As a detective sergeant he was responsible for the Crimes Against Persons Section, which investigates

robberies, homicides, domestic violence, assaults and economic crimes.

Promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2001, Gazsi was assigned as patrol watch commander and also served as the jail manager, Equipment Working Group coordinator, disaster preparedness coordinator, the department patrol liaison with John Wayne Airport and Terrorism Early Warning Group coordinator. As a lieutenant, Gazsi also served as the Traffic Services commander, executive officer in the Office of the Chief and as the Support Services commander.

During this period, he served with the Da Vinci Mentor Program in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and the Leadership Development Program at the Criminal Justice Training Center, Golden West College. He has served with several local ministries and outreaches as well as Orange County Model Engineers community railroad in Costa Mesa's Fairview Park.

Gazsi was promoted to Captain in 2007 and currently serves as the Support Services Division Commander.

Gazsi, who became an ordained minister in 2004, serves as an elder for OC Harvest church in Irvine. He and his wife of 19 years, Kimberly, have three daughters: Kayla 18, Kesli 16, and Kathryn 9.