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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West University Place Announces Retirement of Police Chief Ken Walker and Welcomes Incoming Chief Gary Ratliff

WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE, TX – Today, the City of West University Place announces the retirement of Police Chief Ken Walker after 22 years of dedicated service to West University Place and over five decades in the law enforcement profession.

At its January 27 regular meeting, the City Council recognized Chief Walker for his dedicated service and approved the City Manager’s recommendation to appoint Assistant Chief Ratliff to the position of Police Chief. Chief Walker will officially retire on February 3, leaving behind a lasting impact on the department through his professionalism, wisdom, and dedication to service.

Effective February 3, at 5 p.m., Assistant Chief Gary Ratliff will assume the role of Police Chief. Chief Ratliff has been serving as the Assistant Police Chief for West University Place since June 2024. He joined the department with over 30 years of experience, and most recently held the position of Police Chief at the City of League City. Chief Ratliff holds a Master’s in Criminal Justice Leadership Management from Sam Houston State University and received his Certified Public Manager designation from the University of Houston. Additionally, Chief Ratliff holds his Master’s Peace Officer License from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and is a graduate of both the FBI National Academy and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas.

“It’s an honor to serve as the next Police Chief for the City of West University Place,” said Chief Ratliff. “I’m committed to continuing the department's legacy of community engagement, transparency, and public safety excellence. I look forward to working closely with the men and women of this great department and the residents of this wonderful community” he added.

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