



<b>TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM</b>
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TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Assistant City Manager

DATE: May 27, 2021

RE: **Resolution No. 21-2805 – Recognizing Police Chief Joseph White and His Service to the City of Ketchikan; And Establishing an Effective Date**

The attached resolution requires little elaboration on the part of the City Manager's Office. Throughout his more than 25 years of service to the City, Chief White has become well regarded by many people in law enforcement and throughout the Ketchikan community. While I have only had the fortune of working with Chief White for three years, in this short time I have been impressed with his approach to leadership, his development of a strong police force, and how the Ketchikan Police Department engages the community under his direction. Chief White has been a dedicated and caring leader for the Ketchikan Police Department who has always strived to improve and advance the department's operations. To say that Chief White's retirement represents a tremendous loss for the City of Ketchikan and the greater community would be an understatement. He has laid a solid foundation for departmental operations that will be carried on by his dedicated staff and in how the community has come to regard the Ketchikan Police Department. Chief White's legacy will not be soon forgotten or easily replaced.

I wish Joe much happiness in his retirement and hope that he and his family enjoy their next adventure together as they relocate to the Phoenix area.

A motion has been prepared for City Council consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the motion approving Resolution No. 21-2805 recognizing Chief Joseph White and his service to the City of Ketchikan; and establishing an effective date.

**Recommended Motion:** I move the City Council approve Resolution No. 21-2805 recognizing Chief Joseph White and his service to the City of Ketchikan; and establishing an effective date.

**CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-2805**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN,  
RECOGNIZING POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH WHITE AND HIS SERVICE TO THE  
CITY OF KETCHIKAN; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Ketchikan City Council and community of Ketchikan recognize the service, contributions, and dedication of City of Ketchikan Police Chief Joseph “Joe” White and congratulate him on his retirement, effective June 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief White was born and raised in Ketchikan and later moved with his family to Kodiak where he graduated from Kodiak High School. While at the University of Alaska Fairbanks he studied Elementary Education and then graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief White’s desire to serve the public led him away from the classroom and toward law enforcement, and in this pursuit he first began work as campus security for the Universities of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks; and

**WHEREAS**, after paying for his own tuition to the Sitka Police Academy, Chief White was hired by the City of Ketchikan as an officer for the Ketchikan Police Department in 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief White has held many positions with the Ketchikan Police Department, including School Resource Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant of Investigations and was promoted to Chief in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief White has served not only the City but the larger Ketchikan community and State of Alaska through his involvement with the Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Alaska Police Standards Council,

**WHEREAS**, under Chief White’s leadership, the Ketchikan Police Department has fostered a more community-minded and approachable philosophy to local law enforcement, evidenced in the development of programs such as “Shop with a Cop,” “Coffee with a Cop,” serving at First City Homeless Services’ “Empty Bowls” fundraising dinner, and the Citizen Police Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, in his aim to keep moving the Ketchikan Police Department forward, Chief White has encouraged a more progressive style of law enforcement through timely trainings, policy review, and empowering his staff through encouraging their participation in shaping the department; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief White’s initiative to create a more engaging Police Department has yielded a capable and committed police force that will carry on the foundations of community policing established under his administration; and

**WHEREAS**, not limiting himself to on-the-job contributions, Chief White has endeavored to enhance our community in his personal capacity and has assisted with public education for domestic violence and violent crimes, has been involved with the day and overnight warming shelters and Women in Safe Homes (WISH), and has coached nearly every little league sport in Ketchikan; and

**WHEREAS**, through his dedication to his community, the oath of law enforcement, his fair and consistent approach to leadership, and being a kind, compassionate individual that everyone wants as their friend and ally, Chief White will be dearly missed and not easily replaced, and

**WHEREAS**, Chief White will retire with his family to the Phoenix Metropolitan Area of Arizona. The Ketchikan City Council wishes Chief White much happiness in his well-deserved retirement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska as follows:

**Section 1.** The Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska does hereby extend sincere thanks and congratulations to Chief White as well as to his family.

**Section 2.** The Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska recognizes and celebrates the many contributions made by Chief White throughout his more than 25 years of service to the City of Ketchikan Police Department.

**Section 3.** The City of Ketchikan shall transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Chief White in expression of its appreciation.

**Section 4.** This resolution is effective immediately upon passage and approval.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

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Robert Sivertsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kim Stanker, City Clerk