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CITY OF HANFORD ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF NEW FIRE CHIEF

Chief Daniel Perkins brings nearly four decades of emergency services experience to role

HANFORD, CA – Daniel Perkins has been selected to lead the Hanford Fire Department following the departure of Chief Steve Pendergrass late last year. Perkins holds the honor of being the department's 15th fire chief since the City was incorporated in 1891.

“Chief Perkins has already hit the ground running by immersing himself in the department’s history, operations and current challenges,” said Hanford City Manager Mario Cifuentes. “He is the right person at the right time to lead the department into the future.”

Perkins, a native of the Antelope Valley region of Southern California, started his professional career working as an EMT and paramedic. In 1990, he took a job as an American Ambulance paramedic in Fresno. He later worked for the City of Sanger as a firefighter and paramedic before joining the Fresno Fire Department in 2001. There, he gained invaluable experience in all facets of emergency services, including specialized skills such as hazardous materials response and urban search and rescue. Perkins rose to the rank of Battalion Chief before retiring in 2018. Finding he wasn’t fully ready for retirement life, he seized a new opportunity in Kingsburg in 2019. He served as Kingsburg’s Fire Chief for four years before applying to work in the community he calls home—Hanford.

Perkins is married with two children and two stepchildren.

“I think the thing that I really enjoy the most about the community is the tradition,” Perkins said. “The tradition, but also the knowledge that the City is growing and that growth is a positive thing.”

However, as the demand for its services grows, Perkins is sounding the alarm about the department’s most serious and pressing needs, including more firefighters and additional fire stations—needs that could be addressed by a successful revenue measure in November.

“The City doesn’t have the revenue to provide a level of service necessary to meet the current demands of the community,” Perkins said. “If we do nothing, we won’t have adequate fire services into the future. We will be skeleton crews going on the minimum

number of calls, and really getting to the point where we have to stop providing the current level of service. There is not another choice.”

To learn more about the Hanford Fire Department’s current resources and needs, visit www.hanfordca.gov/Fire.

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