



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Wheat Ridge Police Department Names Shellie Salser New Patrol Operations Commander

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. June 18, 2019 – The Wheat Ridge Police Department recently announced the appointment of Shellie Salser as the newest Commander for the Patrol Operations Division.

“We are pleased to have Commander Salser join the Management Team of the Wheat Ridge Police Department,” stated Chief Dan Brennan. “The City of Wheat Ridge was incorporated in 1969 and the police department was formed. Two years later, Pat Hopper joined our ranks as the department’s first female police officer. As our department has grown over the past 50 years, our personnel has diversified and many women have been hired by the department. With Salser’s selection as a Commander; however, we are especially proud to have her join the WRPD family as the department’s highest ranking female officer ever.”

Salser reports to the Chief of Police Dan Brennan and Division Chief Jim Lorentz and is one of two Commanders providing oversight for the Patrol Operations Division. She also serves as the Emergency Manager for the City.

Salser’s career in law enforcement spans 30 years beginning with professional staff service as a records technician and dispatcher for Weld County and as an Animal Control Officer for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office. She moved up the sworn ranks in the Sheriff’s Office serving first as a Deputy Sheriff from 2000-2005, a Sergeant from 2005-2012 and then as a Lieutenant from 2012-2019.

As a Lieutenant, Salser led numerous teams within the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office including patrol, corrections, and administration. She also served as Incident Commander on numerous operational missions, both critical and routine. She was responsible for developing and overseeing progress toward the agency’s Strategic Planning process while working closely with the Accreditation Unit in developing and implementing agency policy based on procedural assessments and evaluations. She was also an active member of the Emergency Management and Response Team.

Salser received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Public Administration from Kaplan University. She attended and graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, and attended the Senior Management Institute of Police where she received her certificate.

The Patrol Operations Division is comprised of the uniformed men and women that patrol Wheat Ridge neighborhoods, respond to emergencies, engage in community policing projects, and support various community involvement programs. The Patrol Division includes sworn officers who are assigned to three shifts covering a 24 hour period, seven days a week. The total number of Calls for Service in 2018 was 36,953. This includes all calls with a WRPD unit responding whether Patrol

Officers, School Resource Officers, or Community Service Officers covering crash and traffic issues, reports of domestic violence and child abuse, robbery and attempted robbery as well as other crimes. Calls for Service may also include calls for assistance from the West Metro SWAT Team and other local agencies like Arvada Fire, W. Metro Fire, and the Lakewood and Arvada Police Departments.

About the Wheat Ridge Police Department

The Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) is a state and nationally accredited agency dedicated to providing police services to approximately 31,000 citizens. The department's budgeted strength is 82 sworn officers and 24 civilian personnel who serve under the leadership of the Chief of Police. WRPD has two divisions, Patrol Operations and Support Services, and receives an average of 41,000 calls for service each year. WRPD operates three watches, or shifts, to cover operations 24 hours a day. The Wheat Ridge Police Department is committed to providing the highest standards of service in partnership with the community.

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