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Subject: PRESS RELEASE GARCIA NAMED LAKELAND CHIEF OF POLICE

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RUBEN GARCIA NAMED LAKELAND CHIEF OF POLICE

LAKELAND, FL (January 31, 2019) - The City of Lakeland is pleased to announce Ruben Garcia as Chief of Police effective February 1st. Garcia has 32 years of law enforcement experience with the Lakeland Police Department. He joined the organization April 1987 after serving four years with the 2nd Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps. Garcia, who has served as one of the agency's three Assistant Chiefs for the past three years, takes over the Lakeland Police Department with the announced retirement of Chief Larry Giddens.

City Manager Tony Delgado said, "I am honored to promote Assistant Chief Ruben Garcia to the position of Chief of Police. Chief Garcia has an esteemed career with the Department and has proven to be highly skilled, extremely knowledgeable and deeply involved with the men and women of our decorated Department." He added, "He is equally understanding of our diverse community and has proven his commitment to work hand-in-hand with all residents and businesses within our community. His commitment to community policing is greatly shared by the City Commission. This is an area he will continue to focus on and it will be the foundation of his administration going forward."

Garcia said, "I'm extremely honored to continue to serve the City of Lakeland, its citizens and the members of the Lakeland Police Department as we continue to work in partnership to safeguard our neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for our citizens and visitors alike. The Lakeland Police Department has been blessed with strong support from our community, our City government and our many county, state, and federal partners. Through accountability, urgency and transparency in our actions, we will continue to earn such support every day."

Garcia has a long list of past assignments as he has progressively advanced in the Lakeland Police Department. These assignments include: Uniform Police Officer, SWAT Officer, Narcotics Officer, FDLE Fugitive Task Force, Drug K-9 Handler, Criminal Intelligence Officer, DEA Task Force Officer, SWAT Team Sergeant, K-9 Unit Sergeant, HIDTA Task Force Sergeant, Uniformed Patrol Lieutenant, Criminal Investigations Lieutenant, Commanding Officer of the Uniform Patrol Division and Commanding Officer of the Neighborhood Services Bureau. He also has an extensive list of training assignments on his resume including the most recent Florida Police Chief's Future Police Chiefs Training Seminar he attended in 2018.

Garcia is scheduled to be sworn in as the new Lakeland Chief of Police on Friday, February 1st at 8 a.m. in City Manager Tony Delgado's Office. An official swearing-in ceremony will be announced at a later date. Delgado said, "We have been blessed to have Chief Larry Giddens at the helm for the past five years and his ability to bring the Department and the community together has been the hallmark of his administration. He has built a great succession plan within our organization and that made my decision extremely difficult considering our internal candidates. However, I believe Chief Garcia will carry that legacy and raise the bar as we continue to move the Department forward."

Garcia will be paid an annual salary of \$150,000. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from Saint Leo University. He is a Certified Public Manager through Florida State University and he is a Florida Certified Labor Relations Professional. Garcia is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Polk County Police Chiefs Association, National Tactical Officer Association and the Florida SWAT Association.

The City of Lakeland was incorporated January 1885 and has grown to become one of the largest inland communities in Florida. Lakeland continues to grow with the current population over 100,000. It has been designated a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area by the US Census Bureau for over 30 years. With tourist attractions and gulf beaches only an hour away, Lakeland capitalizes on its ideal central Florida location along the I-4 corridor. The City owns and operates Lakeland Electric, the third largest publicly owned utility in Florida and it was one of the first to offer power in the Sunshine State over 115 years ago. For additional information about the City of Lakeland, please visit www.lakelandgov.net. Citizens are also invited to follow the City on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Vimeo, Snapchat and Nextdoor. Citizens can find the City of Lakeland on these social media platforms by searching lakelandgov.

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