



### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

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#### **LT. TONY RUELAS TO BE SWORN IN AS SAN FERNANDO'S NEWEST POLICE CHIEF**

*Ceremony set for August 2, 6 p.m.; Ruelas to focus on problem solving policing*

San Fernando's incoming police chief will be sworn in August 2, 6 p.m., at the San Fernando City Hall Council Chambers, 117 Macneil St., San Fernando.

Lieutenant Tony Ruelas, 48, will succeed mentor and Police Chief Robert Ordelheide who retires July 30. Ruelas will assume his new duties on July 31 becoming the 31<sup>st</sup> police chief in San Fernando's 99-year history.

"I was particularly impressed with Lieutenant Ruelas' can-do attitude and innovative proposals to address our shrinking city budget without compromising citizen safety," said San Fernando Mayor Mario Hernandez. "His talents and leadership skills will serve the department and city well."

Ruelas was among the department's three lieutenants considered for the promotion.

A 24-year veteran of the San Fernando Police Department, Ruelas currently acts as Lieutenant of Support Services overseeing the department's day-to-day activities. He has served every assignment including patrol, training officer, detective and sergeant. Ruelas is also a founding member of the department's Special Response Team having last served as commander.



***Lt. Tony Ruelas***

"I look forward to the challenge and opportunity to serve as San Fernando's next police chief," said Ruelas. His priorities will focus on a balanced budget, accountability and transparency, and operational efficiencies.

"I especially want to build upon the successful programs Chief Ordelheide put into place like building community partnerships," he said. "I hope to use this opportunity to make community members active participants in problem solving policing."

Problem solving policing is a partnership between the community and police department to solve a variety of community problems requiring specialized attention from law enforcement. Ruelas' work plan for the coming year includes installation of a citywide surveillance system, greater community

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**City of San Fernando News Release**

Page 2 of 2

outreach including an interactive police website, and furthering efforts on blighted properties before they become hotbeds for crime.

“Ultimately, my goal is to get ahead of and produce sustainable quality of life solutions for the San Fernando community,” said Ruelas.

Ruelas holds a bachelor's degree in economics from California State University, Bakersfield and a master's of business administration from the University of California, Irvine. He served two tours of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute.

Ruelas will lead a 66 member full-service police department with an annual operating budget of \$7.2 million. The department patrols approximately 2.4 square miles and serves a city of nearly 30,000 residents in the northeast San Fernando Valley.

To speak with Ruelas or Hernandez, call (818) 898-1201.

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