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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2017

Mayor Lyda Krewson and Director of Public Safety Jimmie Edwards Appoint John Hayden as Police Commissioner



Police Commissioner
John Hayden

Mayor Lyda Krewson and Director of Public Safety Jimmie Edwards have appointed John Hayden as police commissioner, effective immediately.

Hayden is a 30-year veteran of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. During that span, he has risen through the department, earning the rank of lieutenant in 1995, captain in 2006, and major in 2015. His most recent position was commander of the Police Department's North Patrol Division. Between 2006 and 2013, he served as commander of the Internal Affairs Division.

"John Hayden has served St. Louis with honor and distinction for 30 years," Mayor Krewson said. "He has a great track record building trust in the communities in which he's served. At this very critical time in our City, John will continue that exemplary service as our police chief."

"John Hayden and his contributions to the St. Louis Police Department and to the community are respected and held in high esteem by a broad cross-section of the St. Louis community, including his peers in the law enforcement community," Director of Public Safety Jimmie Edwards said. "He treats all people, whether law enforcement or the accused, with respect. I believe that his informed concern for our City will be a great asset in closing the trust gap between the police and citizens."

“I know that our Police Department must change from within in order to earn the support of our citizens,” Edwards added.

Hayden, 55, holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Washington University, a master’s degree in management from Fontbonne University, and has earned more than half of the credits required for a law degree from St. Louis University School of Law.

As police commissioner, Hayden will earn \$153,000 a year. He will be in charge of a department of 1,300 sworn officers, 400 civilian employees, and a yearly budget of \$170 million.

During the interview process, Hayden said he is committed to community policing. His vision is of a Police Department that is accountable to the people of St. Louis, and a department that views citizens as partners working hand-in-hand with officers to combat crime, he said.

“I know how our agency functions from the executive level. I know the importance of ethical decision-making and maintaining the highest level of integrity from the top down,” Hayden said. “Our agency needs to make certain that we are providing culturally-sensitive officers with the training and tactics to ensure their safety as well as the safety of the citizens in our community.”

The lifelong St. Louis resident said his crime reduction strategy will be a holistic one, incorporating enforcement, community outreach, analysis and redistribution of resources, a more in-depth analysis of calls for service and crime trends, expanding the use of technology, early intervention and prevention, and more training for officers.

“Addressing crime in the City of St. Louis will require a police commissioner who is trusted by our citizens,” Hayden said. “I have earned their trust by being present and making myself available, by setting up a mobile office on the streets in our most challenged neighborhoods, by having outdoor roll calls in struggling neighborhoods, by attending community meetings and seeking feedback, but most importantly by walking the streets and talking to our citizens face-to-face.”

In appointing Hayden as police commissioner, Krewson and Edwards thanked the more than 40 people who applied for the position, including the final six candidates who underwent rigorous testing and participated in a public town hall.

Krewson and Edwards thanked Lt. Col. Lawrence O’Toole, in particular, who served as police commissioner since April following the retirement of former commissioner Sam Dotson.

“Larry O’Toole stepped up and took on that role because of his commitment to the department and the people of St. Louis,” Krewson said. “We appreciate all he’s done for this City.”

John Hayden Work Experience:

John Hayden has been with the the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for 30 years.

1987 to 1989 - Police Officer, District Four - area patrol of neighborhoods and documentation of criminal activity and other incidents.

1989 to 1990 - Vice Narcotics Division - Street Corner Drug Apprehension Team/undercover narcotics investigations

1990 to 1991 - Police Officer, District Four - area patrols of neighborhoods and documentation of criminal activity and other incidents

1991 to 1992 - Detective, Fourth District Detective Bureau - investigation of robberies, assaults, burglaries, theft of property/vehicles and fraudulent criminal activity

1992 to 1995 - Police Academy Instructor - Class Instruction to academy recruits and lesson plan preparation for the patrol, juvenile and ethics blocks of instruction; in-service ethics training for all commissioned personnel

1995 to 1996 - Sergeant, District Six - supervision of officers assigned to the squad to ensure that crime reduction/prevention patrol efforts were observed in District Six

1996 to 1998 - Academy Training Coordinator - oversight of academy recruit training/Assistant Academy Director; management of several accounts out of which supplies/training seminars were funded

1998 to 2000 - Watch Commander, District Four - command of sergeants and officers assigned to the platoon to ensure that crime reduction/prevention patrol efforts were observed in District Four

2000 to 2001 - Commander of the Central Patrol Division Detective Bureau - oversight of personnel and investigations of robberies, assaults, burglaries, theft of property/vehicles and fraudulent criminal activity; coordination with district captains in the Central Patrol Division to determine investigative priorities

2001 to 2007 - Executive Aide to the Chief of Police - reviewed of all administrative reports forwarded to the chief of police for approval by bureau commanders to provide a recommendation to the chief of police; review of all reports of officer-involved shootings, shots fired incidents, vehicle pursuits and misconduct investigations which resulted in federal and or state prosecutions against officers

2007 to 2013 - Commander of the Internal Affairs Division - oversight of approximately 1,200 investigations of employee misconduct conducted by detective sergeants assigned to the

Internal Affairs Division; oversight/review of all reports of officer-involved shootings, shots fired incidents, vehicle pursuits and misconduct investigations, which resulted in federal and/or state prosecution against officers

2013 to 2015 - Commander of District Five - oversight of all personnel, equipment and crime reduction/prevention patrol efforts in District Five and associated administrative responsibilities; attendance at community affairs meetings in neighborhoods and aldermanic wards in District Five

2015 to 2017 - Commander of North Patrol Division - oversight of all personnel, equipment and crime reduction/prevention patrol efforts in the North Patrol Division and associated administrative responsibilities; attendance at community affairs meetings in neighborhoods and aldermanic wards in the North Patrol Division.