



David Wilske (Courtesy of the City of Hastings)

Wilske's promotion to police chief was approved by the Hastings City Council this week. He will start in the job May 30, replacing Bryan Schafer, who is retiring

Wilske was hired in Hastings in May 2017 after 20 years with University of Minnesota police, where worked his way up from patrol officer to operations lieutenant. In Hastings, he's been in charge of department training and development, fleet management, emergency management and the supervision of investigative and evidence room operations.

This week, Schafer also acknowledged Wilske's work in helping the department form partnerships with community leaders and groups. He called him a "strong leader" who "brings compassion, vision and energy to the organization."

The community's support for the police department "has always been impressive and greatly appreciated," said Wilske, who will lead a department with 30 sworn officers, seven non-sworn staff and a budget that this year totals about \$6 million.

The hiring process included interview panels with representatives from Dakota County Social Services, 360 Communities, IDEA, Ally Supportive and Hastings Ministerial, as well as the city's public safety committee of the city council, public safety advisory commission, police department, Dakota County sheriff's office, and city department directors.

On Friday, the city announced that Cmdr. Bryan Schowalter has been promoted to Wilske's deputy chief position. Schowalter has been with Hastings police since 2006.

Schafer is capping off a law enforcement career that spans 39 years, most of those rising in the ranks of the Minneapolis Police Department. He joined Hastings police as its chief in 2013.

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A Northeast Minneapolis native, Nick Ferraro was hired by the Pioneer Press in 1997 after graduating from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He's been a reporter covering communities since 2007. He can be reached at 651-228-2173.

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