



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Spencer Cronk, City Manager

DATE: September 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Appointment of Joseph Chacon as Austin's Police Chief

After a competitive recruitment process that garnered significant interest from candidates across the nation, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Joseph Chacon as Austin's Police Chief.

Joseph Chacon has been serving the last four months as the Interim Chief of Police with the Austin Police Department. Prior to his appointment, Chief Chacon served as an Assistant Chief for almost five years, overseeing Patrol, Special Operations, Specialized Patrol, Investigations, Intelligence, Professional Standards and Training/Recruiting. Chief Chacon is committed to civic engagement, and volunteers with the Miracle League of Austin, an adaptive Little League baseball organization, and with Special Olympics Texas. He is on the International Association of Chiefs of Police Torch Run Committee, an anchor organization committed to Special Olympics. Chief Chacon has a wide breadth of experience in almost all areas of police work and, during the time I've worked with Chief Chacon, he has shown strong leadership and a commitment to ensuring the safety of all Austinites.

Chief Chacon received his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX and is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington School of Urban and Public Affairs, where he earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He is also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, Texas State University's Certified Public Manager Program, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association's Police Executive Leadership Institute.

The six-month recruitment process included extensive community consultation to identify the best candidate for the job. Through March and April, I asked the public to identify the skills and characteristics, background and experience, and top priorities they believed were most important for the next Chief of Police. Responses helped establish the selection criteria for the position. In August, candidates interviewed with a City staff and panelists from the Austin community and the top candidates participated in two public forums to give community members opportunities to meet and ask questions of the final candidates themselves.

I am confident that Chief Joseph Chacon will be able to successfully lead the Austin Police Department and work effectively with community stakeholders to continuously improve the department for the safety of all residents and visitors. I intend to include an item on the September 30, 2021 Council Agenda asking you to confirm my appointment of Joseph Chacon as Austin's next Police Chief.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to meet and discuss this matter prior to the September 30 meeting.