



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Ojai Selects New Chief of Police

City welcomes Captain Trina Newman, expresses gratitude for Captain Jose Rivera's service to the community

"We are incredibly grateful for Chief Rivera's dedication to our community and his 30-plus years of service to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office," said Ojai City Manager James Vega. "While his leadership will be missed, we are excited to welcome our new chief of police, Captain Trina Newman, and look forward to working with her."

Captain Trina Newman has been a resident of Ventura County since 1998 when she began her career with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office. She earned her Bachelor's degree in criminal justice management and has worked many different assignments prior to becoming the chief of police of Ojai, including as a patrol watch commander (and a deputy at the Ojai station—confirm). Captain Newman has also served in positions in operations, support and detention divisions and has supervised such units as the mounted enforcement unit, incident review team and as an academy instructor since 2017. She spent several years as a background investigator and was recognized for her efforts of recruitment of women in 2019. Captain Newman and her family currently reside in Ojai.

As Ojai's chief of police, Captain Rivera worked hand-in-hand with local leaders and residents to promote public safety. His contribution list is extensive, with major accomplishments including reinstituting foot patrols at Libbey Park and at the downtown Arcade, and helping lead a series of conversations on public safety and community engagement. Captain Rivera also provided vital assistance as the city navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic. His tenure will be remembered because of his kind and professional demeanor, his focus on public engagement, and commitment to keeping the community safe during an unprecedented time.

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Headshots of Captain Newman and Captain Rivera attached.

