



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2019

MENIFEE SENDS POLICE TEAM TO CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA

City Manager Armando Villa recently took a team of key staff members to the Citrus Heights Police Department, a suburb of Sacramento. Why? Because the City of Citrus Heights was the last sizeable California city to successfully form a municipal police department (2006). “This was an excellent opportunity for our team to sit down with our counterparts from the city that ‘wrote the book’ on police department formation,” said Interim Director of Public Safety Dave Brown following the trip.

“The takeaway was that we are not only on the right track, but we are slightly ahead of the Citrus Heights model,” according to City Manager Armando Villa. “They were able to stand up their department in 12 months. We will have about 18 months start-to-finish,” he said.

Menifee’s team spent a full day with about a dozen of the original members of the Citrus Heights start-up team including their first police chief, Boyd Long (now serving as City Manager), Assistant Police Chief Gina Anderson, Vice-Mayor Jeff Slowey and Assistant City Manager Rhonda Rivera. Several members of the police department’s command staff also participated and shared “lessons-learned” and best practices. Themes that emerged during the session were the importance of recruiting and hiring the right staff, establishing a service-oriented culture and committing adequate resources to the project.

The next step in the police department formation process is the selection and appointment of Menifee’s first Police Chief. The police chief recruitment effort generated almost 50 applications from 9 states. The candidates will be assessed over the next several weeks with an anticipated appointment in April or May.

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ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 90,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California’s premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee’s business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community’s character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city’s strong financial position. Menifee’s growing family-oriented population values the city’s ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city’s strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state’s most promising new cities.*