



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Philip Southard
Public Information and Legislative Affairs Officer
PHONE: (951) 746-0654
EMAIL: psouthard@cityofmenifee.us

New. Better. Best.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2022

Ed Varso Sworn In as Menifee's Police Chief

Chief Varso will be the second police chief to lead the growing Menifee Police Department following the retirement of Chief Pat Walsh.

MENIFEE, CA – Ed Varso was officially sworn in as the Police Chief for the City of Menifee during a special ceremony held yesterday at City Hall. Chief Varso succeeds Chief Pat Walsh, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

The ceremony was attended by the City of Menifee Mayor and City Council, City Manager Armando Villa, representatives from state and county offices, and numerous public safety partners from across the region. The oath of office was administered by Acting City Clerk Stephanie Roseen and Chief Varso's daughter, Paisley, pinned on his badge.

"It's an honor to lead the brave men and women of the Menifee Police Department and continue the strong community-focused approach that Chief Walsh instilled in the department," said Chief Varso. "I look forward to working with our residents, businesses, and community leaders to further strengthen the safety and wellbeing of our city."

Launched in July 2020, the Menifee Police Department has grown to over 100 sworn officers and personnel. The Menifee Police Department continues to expand as part of their three-year growth plan, which includes multiple divisions such as investigations, traffic, K9, and crime scene investigation.

"The Menifee Police Department has been a tremendous asset to the city and will continue to thrive with Chief Varso," said Menifee City Manager Armando Villa. "Chief Varso has a proven track record of success, and we are extremely grateful he chose to join our team here in Menifee."

Chief Varso previously served as the Police Chief for the City of Escondido. He rose through the ranks at the Escondido Police Department serving as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief. Chief Varso has also overseen several special assignments including investigations, emergency negotiations team, and special weapons and tactics (SWAT). He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration, a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

"We are very excited for Chief Varso to get started and meet the Menifee community," said Mayor Bill Zimmerman. "The Menifee Police Department has exceeded expectations at every turn, and I am confident that trend will continue under Chief Varso's leadership."

###

ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 100,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing, and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premier 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.*