



Lorain Police Captain Jim McCann in 2009. McCann will succeed Cel Rivera as police chief.

## Capt. James McCann named as future police chief



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LORAIN — Lorain Police Capt. James McCann has been named the new police chief and will replace Chief Cel Rivera in December.

Mayor Joe Koziura confirmed that McCann will be the new chief. He said McCann was recommended by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), which conducted the search. He was chosen over Capt. Roger Watkins, the only other candidate.

“We had two great candidates in Capt. Watkins and Capt. McCann and it was a very close



closely with him until then to make the transition smoother. McCann will still serve as a captain until Rivera retires. He said the city made a decision on the position search by October so that the new chief could work under Rivera.

“It will be almost like two chiefs really,” he said. “We wanted the transition to be smooth.”

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The mayor said the decision to use the association of chiefs instead of a civil service test was because it would test more than the civil service test would, and it would give a fairer chance to candidates who weren't great written test takers.



He said part of the process is bringing in three chiefs from outside the area to administer the process. The association conducts personal interviews, psychological evaluation and a written test. The candidates are scored and the highest scoring candidates gets the job.

Rivera has served as chief since 1995, and started with the Lorain Police Department as a officer in 1971. Koziura said the city has only had three chiefs over the last 50 years. He said the city wanted to make sure the next candidate would be long serving as well.

Safety/Service Director Dan Given said his office received the news Tuesday. He said he was told both candidates scored high, and McCann barely squeaked above Watkins. Given said the official results of the test haven't been sent yet.

"I think the important thing to reference is that if it was so close, it definitely shows we have quality people in LPD leadership," Given said.

Lorain Fraternal Order of Police President Kyle Gelenius' issued a statement congratulating McCann on his impending promotion.

"We look forward to working with him as he ushers in a new era for the Lorain Police Department," Gelenius said. "Obviously, Capt. McCann has some big shoes to fill after Chief Rivera's remarkable tenure. We wish Capt. McCann the best of luck in working towards a safe and secure city for all Lorain residents."

Koziura said he is happy with how transparent the city has been about the test results, hopefully making sure no one is upset with the results. He said he would have been happy with either Watkins or McCann.

"I would have been pleased with either one," Koziura said. "Either one of them were capable of being a fine chief I believe."

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