



PRESS RELEASE

Woodland Park, Colorado

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For Immediate Release

CITY ADDRESSES QUESTIONS AROUND INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

The City is aware that the headline of a media article from 2012 concerning Steve Hasler has already been circulating in the community. The article includes allegations and attacks against Hasler's character. "In an effort to combat rumors and disinformation surrounding those allegations, we would like to address that headline directly," said City Manager Michael Lawson.

In 2012, when the article was published, Steve Hasler was the Chief of Police for the City of Lone Tree. The article details accusations from a handful of employees of the Lone Tree Police Department against the department itself. The publisher of the article never published a follow up, and further research shows that statements made in the article were never substantiated.

Given the circumstances around the previous police chief's departure, the City of Woodland Park is especially sensitive to the allegations made in the article, particularly around sexual harassment. The City took extra care to ensure nothing was substantiated. The City is committed to ensuring its officers feel safe and empowered to do their jobs with support from leadership.

"We have conducted thorough research of our own, and can confirm that allegations made in the article are simply untrue," said City Manager Michael Lawson.

Through its research, the City believes Hasler has demonstrated integrity throughout his career. His record shows Hasler has routinely excelled at coming alongside officers to train and develop them. He was selected for his ability to bring stability and extensive experience to police departments as he has done several times in the past. Hasler has been recognized for his work by the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police in the past, including following his time in Lone Tree.

"We understand and appreciate concerns we've heard from the community. We can assure folks that due diligence was done ahead of time," added Lawson. "We believe Steve will be a strong asset for the department while the City looks for a permanent chief."

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