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City of Sebastopol**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CITY OF SEBASTOPOL SELECTS SEAN MCDONAGH AS NEW POLICE CHIEF

SEBASTOPOL, Calif., February 27, 2025 — The City of Sebastopol is pleased to announce that Sean McDonagh will become the City's next Police Chief, pending approval of an employment agreement at the March 4 City Council meeting. If approved, Mr. McDonagh will officially assume the role on March 4, 2025, under a three-year contract extending through March 3, 2028.

A native of Australia, Mr. McDonagh brings a wealth of law enforcement experience, having served as a Police Commander for 10 years and most recently as a Police Chief in Colorado for the past two years. He holds advanced degrees in law enforcement, executive management, and police leadership and security from institutions in both the U.S. and Australia. Mr. McDonagh has successfully obtained California law enforcement certification through the California Police Officer Standards Board, ensuring his qualifications align with state requirements.

Mr. McDonagh participated in a rigorous selection process. It included interviews with a panel of current or former Police Chiefs, another panel of community leaders, an interview with a former local Chief, and final interviews with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and prior Police Chief. He comes highly recommended by those who have worked with him elsewhere.

Mayor Zollman welcomes Chief McDonagh and stated, "The City looks forward to the Chief's leadership to enhance public safety, fostering and building strong relationships with our esteemed youth and valued residents through strong community engagement, and fostering transparency in our police department. His stated commitment to a holistic approach to policing aligns with our values of creating a safer, more supportive community for all."

City Manager Don Schwartz echoed this sentiment, adding "Chief McDonagh has demonstrated experience in working closely with the community and his team. I was particularly struck by his ability to recruit quality police officers when they could go anywhere in the country."

"I've always loved the city and surrounding region, so it's a real honor to be able to call Sebastopol home," said Chief McDonagh. "I look forward to working closely and collaboratively with the City Council and administration, local groups, citizens and those that frequent the area. Community engagement is and has been very important to me in my past roles as chief of police. I love to be active in and with the community, so that we can work together to achieve common goals for the City of Sebastopol."