

MEDIA RELEASE –10/20/2021

City of Rifle Announces Chief of Police Finalists

Rifle City Manager Tommy Klein announced three final candidates for the Chief of Police to fill the position left vacant by Mr. Klein's acceptance of the City Manager. These finalists were selected from a group of 19 applicants for the position. A community reception will be held at the Rifle Ute Theatre and Event Center, 132 E 4th St., from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., on Friday, October 22, 2021. The public is invited to attend. The selection process will include a meeting with members of the Rifle Police Department, the community reception, and interviews with the City Council and City Manager, as well as the City's executive staff. The finalists in alphabetical order are:

Adam Cataffo – Mr. Cataffo has 24 years of experience in law enforcement in Colorado and 6 years of experience in the area of youth crisis counseling. He spent 20 years with Douglas County Sheriff's Office serving as Lieutenant, Watch Commander, Sergeant and Deputy Sheriff. Upon completing Police Academy in Allendale, MI, Mr. Cataffo began his career in law enforcement as a patrol officer here at Rifle PD before to moving to Douglas County. While at Douglas County Sheriff he served in Investigations-Major Case Unit, Coordinator for the 18th Judicial District Critical Response Team, Team Commander SWAT Hostage Negotiation Team, Watch Commander Patrol Division, Watch Commander Detention Facility, Technician with Traffic Unit Investigations & Accident Reconstruction and Team Leader SWAT Crisis Negotiation Team. He holds a Bachelor's of Applied Arts in Science/Psychology and a minor in Sociology. Completing a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice & Public Administration from UC Denver in 2000. Mr. Cataffo completed the School of Police Staff and Command Class #386 from Northwestern University.

Michael Drake – Mr. Drake has served in law enforcement for 25 years. Currently he is serving as a Major in Professional Standards Division with the New York State Police. While with the New York State Police, he served as Troop Commander for Troop K, Captain of the Bureau of Investigations, Captain for Uniformed Force, Captain NY State Fusion Center (Executive Officer), Lieutenant for Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Incident Commander and interim Police Chief for City of Long Beach NY, Investigator, Sergeant and State Trooper. Major Drake also led a 9 week emergency deployment team in Puerto Rico responding to Hurricane Maria. Mr. Drake spent 4 years as a Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician serving the community of Highland, NY. Major Drake completed a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in chemistry and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Marist College. Major Drake is a graduate of the FBI National Academy completing an Advanced Diploma in Law Enforcement.

Debra Funston – Ms. Funston has served in law enforcement for 33 years. Currently serving as the Chief of Police in Palisade, CO, she began with Palisade as a Patrol Officer focusing on Investigations and Evidence Custodian, she promoted to Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant and Interim Chief before assuming the full-time Chief position in 2015. Beginning her law enforcement career in Hampton, VA as a Patrol Officer; she returned to Colorado to serve the City of Montrose. During her 11 years with Montrose Police Department she served as a Patrol Officer, Corporal, Patrol Division Supervisor, Detective Division Supervisor, a member of the Special Response Unit, Command Staff & Entry Team, Managed the DARE program, was a Field Training Officer. Chief Funston served the City of Steamboat Springs for 8 years in the Police Department as School Resource Officer, as the Detective Bureau and Evidence Custodian as well as filling instructor positions for Alive at 25, Dynamics of Driving and Alcohol Responsibility. While with Steamboat she also served in the Fire and Rescue division as Public Education Coordinator and Public Information Officer before moving to Palisade. Chief Funston holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master's in Public Administration from Columbia Southern University. Chief Funston is a graduate of the FBI Rocky Mountain Command College.