

## **Foster begins as interim NPD chief**

### **Chief:**

**By Jamie Berry**

Transcript Staff Writer

Friday was Norman Police Chief Keith Humphrey's last day, but his focus on 21st century policing will remain, he said last week.

Maj. Kevin Foster, who joined the department in 1989, started his new job as interim chief of the Norman Police Department on Saturday.

Throughout his time at NPD, Humphrey said Foster reported to him and Foster worked with him daily.

"We're going to continue building on what we have worked on. We're going to continue to be visible and on the cutting edge when it comes to 21st century policing," he said. "When you hand the baton with a person of his leadership, you won't miss a beat."

Foster said he is very happy and honored that the city had faith he could do the job and appreciates the opportunity. He intends to put his name in the hat for police chief.

"I plan on continuing on our current path, connecting with the public and working together as a community to make things better — not just catch bad guys but make things better for everybody," Foster said.

He said he strives on making Norman a more inclusive community.

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"We can do better," Foster said. "There are some people who are more silent, who don't speak up, and we need to contact those people so they have a voice like everyone else."

Before working at NPD, Foster said he worked a string to odd jobs. Once he joined the department, he eventually worked all three patrol shifts and became a detective, focusing on crimes against children. He also worked in uniform support services (aka community policing) and professional standards, as well as many other areas. He has received promotions to lieutenant, captain and major.

Outside of work, he enjoys playing golf, reading and traveling, including backpacking trip in the northern New Mexico mountains with his son and a Boy Scout troop.

He said is a fan of University of Oklahoma sports and the Thunder.

Foster said he enjoys all types of music, except ones with violent lyrics. He also likes older rap, such as Run DMC.

Foster said his family is very happy for him and was pulling for him, including his wife, son, parents and in-laws.

“They are very thrilled at the opportunity given to me,” he said.

Foster said fellow officers have congratulated him in person, by text and by email, and they have given him a lot of support.

Currently, he is helping with department’s new emergency communications and operations (dispatch) center that will be located on East Robinson by the new water tower. The \$6.5 million project is part of a 2008 bond issue voters approved.

He said the project is in the design phase, and he hopes it’s completed by the end of 2020.

“I know that’s a little ambitious,” he said of his expectations for the project.

NPD Public Information Officer Sarah Jensen said she looks forward to continuing the department’s ongoing efforts with Foster and “gaining a new mentor.”

“Foster maintains a high value for community and outreach similar to Humphrey, and I look forward to working directly with him and seeing how the department grows and develops under his leadership,” she said. “Foster brings great leadership to the role of interim chief.”

Maj. Kevin Foster (pictured) started his new job as interim chief of the Norman Police Department on Saturday, following Chief Keith Humphreys’ resignation. Foster has been with the department since 1989.

**Jamie Berry** / The Transcript