

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Adam Couch Announces Appointment of Josh Thompson as the Odessa Chief of Police

Sergeant Josh Thompson of the Higginsville, Missouri Police Department has been named as Chief of Police for the City of Odessa by Mayor Adam Couch pending confirmation by the Board of Aldermen. Thompson will assume his new position on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. He will work alongside Lieutenant Leland Liese, Sheriff Kerrick Alumbaugh, and the City Administrative team to put the policies and standard operating procedures in place for the transition of law enforcement back to the City in August 2018.

“We are fortunate to find an individual with the credentials Josh will bring to the position.” Mayor Couch said. “Josh is not only a highly experienced and accomplished leader, but he also possesses a tremendous amount of integrity and credibility in not only the law enforcement community but throughout all facets of local government. I am beyond thrilled to have him joining our team.”

Josh has been with the Higginsville Police Department since May 2001. In November 2004, Josh was promoted to the Detective for the Higginsville department and then further promoted to Sergeant in March 2009. His administration and supervisory duties within that department stand out among his peers and coworkers. Additionally, he serves on the Lafayette County Crime Scene Investigation Team and has led the team of nine (9) officers from four (4) different agencies since July 2006. During his tenure he has obtained over \$140,000 in grant monies for the City of Higginsville including the procurement of all new department issued patrol rifles for each officer at no cost to the City. In addition, he was able to procure a crime scene response vehicle for the county Crime Scene Investigation team.

Josh has been recognized by agencies across the region for his efficiency, diligence and work in major high profile cases. He has testified in numerous grand jury cases, trials, and depositions. His professionalism and expertise is well known throughout the region.

Josh is a 1996 graduate of Higginsville High School, a 2000 Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Central Missouri where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Speech Communication. He went on to obtain his law enforcement certification at the National Police Institute where he was a top graduate in his class.

Josh and his wife Sarah have been married almost 17 years. Sarah is a 5th grade elementary teacher in Higginsville and they are the parents of three boys, Grayson (10), Ethan (10), and Liam (8). In addition to his law enforcement work Josh is active in many civic organizations and is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations as a registered basketball official. Josh is a fourth generation farmer and assists in the financial management and labor operations of the family’s farm in rural Saline County.

The Odessa Board of Aldermen will formally approve the Mayor’s appointment at the December 11, 2017 Board meeting. Josh will be sworn in as the Chief of Police in January and a formal reception welcoming him to the community will be held. The date of that event will be announced in the coming weeks.

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