



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



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Santa Cruz Police Department Promotes New Deputy Chief

SANTA CRUZ, CA – The Santa Cruz Police Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Bernie Escalante to the position of Deputy Chief. Escalante is a 23 -year veteran of the Santa Cruz Police Department who most recently distinguished himself as the primary lieutenant in the Neighborhood Policing Unit.

Deputy Chief Escalante began his career at the Santa Cruz Police Department as a community service officer and soon after transitioned to a patrol officer in 1996. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2003 and served as a property crimes detective and tactical team leader, among other assignments. Escalante earned the promotion to the position of lieutenant in 2009, where he managed the Investigations Division and was the Commander of the Emergency Services Unit Tactical Team.

Escalante brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the job of deputy chief. His leadership in the Investigations Unit led to solving some of the most serious crimes in the city and is recognized for his outstanding work ethic.

“Bernie is a consistent and positive leader dedicated to our personnel and our community receiving the absolute best in public safety,” said Police Chief Andy Mills. “I look forward to working with Deputy Chief Escalante in this new role as a key member of my management team to provide strong, results-driven leadership.”

Deputy Chief Escalante, who begins his position immediately, said, “I am constantly impressed by the dedication and professionalism of our law enforcement team here in Santa Cruz, and I am honored to lead this dynamic department as a deputy chief.”

Escalante grew up on the west side of Santa Cruz. He went to Santa Cruz High, where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He earned a BA in Social Science from San Francisco State and continued to play baseball. Escalante went on to get a Masters of Science degree in Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership from the University of San Diego.

Escalante has two children and enjoys golfing and watching both kids compete in athletics.



Santa Cruz Police Department - Deputy Chief Bernie Escalante
Photo attached.

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