



New Lathrop Police Department – January 2022 Update

The [City of Lathrop](#) is hard at work preparing its first-ever Police Department to be fully operational on July 1, 2022, and here's a peek into the progress so far.

The most common questions we receive include, "How are interviews going? Did you hire anybody? Who's at the Station now? Is it lonely there?" We hope that these updates will help to keep our residents in the loop.

Here's a breakdown of our recruiting efforts:

Once all pre-employment checks are complete, job offers will be extended for 2 Commanders, 6 Sergeants, and 12 Officers. All are currently in various stages of the background process. The second round of Officer interviews to fill the remaining 12 positions will start on January 26. Interviews for the Records positions are underway. The Management Analyst position is now open for applications, and Property/Evidence Technician and Community Services Officers will be posted soon.

After recently approving a new contract agreement, the City of Ripon is making preparations to handle dispatch services for the City of Lathrop.

Theresa Roland has been appointed as Lathrop's new Director of Human Resources. As the Lathrop Police Department development continues, the City needs additional support for our employee services, workforce planning, and other tasks under Human Resources.

Theresa served as a sworn Senior Probation Officer for the San Joaquin County Probation Office for ten years. From that role, she moved to the City of Stockton as a Safety Officer in risk management and human resources, working her way up to Human Resources Manager. Most recently, Theresa has worked as Director of Human Resources at the City of Ceres. Theresa's first day in City Hall will be Monday, January 24.

As far as who's currently working at the Station, there are five people in the building: Chief Ray Bechler, Executive Assistant Clarisa Basa, Community Services Supervisor James Hood, and Animal Services staff members Cathy Long and Whitney Phillips.

Code Compliance and Animal Services recently joined forces to make up the new and improved Community Services Division. They're learning each other's jobs. So don't be surprised if you spot James chasing after a loose dog or Cathy measuring the height of fences.

Come July 1, our Community Services Team will have grown. CSOs will be addressing more than just code violations and animal concerns. They'll also be trained to assist Police Officers out in the field by handling minor crash reports, assisting in collecting evidence, taking "cold" crime reports, and addressing parking and towing concerns throughout the city.

The construction of the Executive Assistant's office has begun. Senior Construction Manager Ken Reed says it will be very nice when completed. Clarisa wants to see the finished space, but she's in no hurry to move out of her temporary corner office with its gigantic window.

Recently, the Lathrop City Council voted to outfit our 16 new Ford Police Interceptor Units with an off-white paint scheme and custom decals to stand out from the traditional "black and white" patrol vehicles that most jurisdictions utilize. This style will help provide our new agency with its own unique identity and set it apart from other law enforcement organizations in the region while serving a very practical purpose. Traditional black and white patrol vehicles can become very hot while operating in the summertime and are challenging to keep clean. The all-white body paint will aid in dealing with both of these conditions, which are a prevalent factor in Lathrop. Additionally, three unmarked vehicles are receiving their necessary upgrades, such as computers, radios and other safety equipment, before entering into service.

For More Information, Visit the Transition Webpage

<https://www.ci.lathrop.ca.us/city-manager/page/lathrop-police-department-transition>