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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY APPOINTS CRAIG HEREDIA AS POLICE CHIEF

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. — The City of Fountain Valley has appointed Craig Heredia as its new police chief, bringing 30 years of law enforcement experience, executive leadership and a strong commitment to community-focused policing to the Fountain Valley Police Department. He will begin his role on February 17, 2026, and proudly lead a department with a strong reputation for public safety, community engagement and accountability.

“We are excited to welcome Chief Heredia to Fountain Valley,” Mayor Jim Cunneen said. “He brings thoughtful leadership, a deep understanding of community policing and a genuine commitment to the people he serves. I’m confident he will build on the department’s strong foundation while continuing to strengthen trust, safety and connection throughout our community.”

Heredia joins Fountain Valley after a distinguished career with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), where he served in a wide range of assignments across multiple divisions and commands. His experience includes patrol operations, gang enforcement, major offenders, homicide support and federal task force operations with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Heredia has served as Commanding Officer of LAPD’s West Los Angeles and Hollywood Stations and, most recently, Major Crimes Division where he led teams with a strong focus on accountability, employee wellness, crime reduction and relationship-based policing.

“Fountain Valley is a terrific community, and I am thrilled to be joining the talented people who are dedicated to reducing crime, building trust and improving quality of life,” Heredia said.

Heredia began his career with LAPD in 1995 and advanced through the ranks from Officer to Captain III. His leadership approach emphasizes supporting department personnel, fostering professional development and building strong partnerships within the community.

In addition to his commitment to public safety, Heredia is passionate about professional development and leadership. He holds a master’s degree in criminal justice from Chapman University, and has completed numerous advanced leadership programs, including the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, the University of Southern California Public Safety Leadership Program and the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy.

“I’m most excited about working with the people who make up the Fountain Valley Police Department and putting my training and experience to good use by investing in the next generation of law enforcement professionals and leaders,” Heredia said.

Heredia looks forward to working with City leadership, department personnel and the Fountain Valley community to further strengthen public safety and trust.

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