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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release as of September 16, 2009:

LEMOORE POLICE CHIEF TO RETIRE

Lemoore Police Chief Kimberly Morrell, who has lead Lemoore Police Department as Chief since 2000, has announced she is retiring this fall.

A California State University Fresno graduate with a degree in Criminology, Chief Morrell has worked in practically every position within the Lemoore Police Department since being hired by the City in November 1981. In fact, when Morrell first began as a Police Officer, LPD had a just 13 sworn officers and a total of 15 personnel. By 2000, when Kim Morrell was promoted to Chief of Police, the department had grown to 26 sworn officers and a total of 32 personnel. During her tenure as Chief the Department has grown further, now employing 32 sworn officers and a total of 39 employees. Morrell's leadership has certainly allowed the Department to grow and prosper. In fact, during Morrell's tenure as Chief, the LPD moved from their former location at Fox and C Streets to the new Police Station at Fox St. and Cinnamon Dr., and even saw an expansion five years later.

Chief Morrell's professionalism and courtesy have been well known to the citizens of Lemoore. Her mentoring of young officers, and the implementation of numerous programs for the Department and in the Community have ensured her mark upon this City for years to come. Programs that Morrell is most proud of include Presents on Patrol, which helps needy Lemoore families during the holiday season, by having Officers involved with purchasing, wrapping and delivering gifts which are purchased through donations; Volunteers in Policing, a program that has really taken off during Morrell's tenure allows citizens to be active in law enforcement with a variety of assignments and duties – these citizens volunteer literally thousands of hours each year; and the resurrection of Neighborhood Watch and Crime Free Multi-Family Housing, helping connect neighborhoods and apartment managers with Police Officers – helping all residential areas of Lemoore remain safe.

Kim Morrell's 28 years of service as a police officer are worthy of recognition and this community's gratitude. A retirement celebration will be held in Chief Morrell's honor is tentatively planned for November 6, 2009.

Released by:
Jeff Briltz, City Manager, and Kim Morrell, Chief of Police