



Division of Capitol Police News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joe Macenka, Public Information Officer

Division of Capitol Police

Office: 804-786-2522

Cell: 804-382-7447

Email: jmacenka@dcp.virginia.gov

John T. McKee appointed Capitol Police interim chief

RICHMOND – The members of the Virginia General Assembly’s Legislative Support Commission on Thursday announced the appointment of Major John T. McKee, a 25-year veteran of the Division of Capitol Police, as the interim chief of the agency, effective Jan.1, 2023.

McKee, who has been the division’s No. 2 in command since the retirement of Major Mark Sykes at the end of July, takes over the top job held for the past 11-plus years by Col. Anthony S. Pike. Pike, 57, who announced in October that he would retire on December 31, 2022, concluding an impressive 34-year career of public service devoted to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“John McKee has been a strong and steady fixture in the Capitol Police for more than 25 years, and during that time he has distinguished himself with his commitment to excellence,” said House Speaker C. Todd Gilbert, who also is a member of the Legislative Support Commission that has oversight responsibilities for Capitol Police. “I’m glad to know that when Col. Pike hands over the reins of the Division, it will be to someone so qualified.”

“We appreciate Colonel Pike’s fine service and wish him well in his much-deserved retirement,” said Sen. Mamie E. Locke, another member of the Legislative Support Commission. “Going forward, we know Acting Chief McKee’s years of exceptional experience will be of great benefit to us all.”

McKee, a native Texan, spent three years with the Army after graduating from Clover Hill High School in Midlothian in 1993. He started with Virginia Division of Capitol Police in 1997, and after he completed his division training, he began attending John Tyler Community College, where he earned an associate’s degree in liberal arts and sciences before enrolling at Bluefield College, leading to a bachelor’s degree in organizational management and development.

McKee also earned a post-baccalaureate certificate in public safety from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a graduate of the 255th session of the FBI National Academy, the 2007 Public Safety Institute through Virginia Commonwealth University and the 2011 National Criminal Justice Command College through the University of Virginia.

McKee has had a steady rise through the ranks in his more than quarter century of service to the Capitol Police, being named lieutenant in 2008, captain in 2020 and major in May of this year. During his career, McKee has distinguished himself for his attention to detail in planning large-scale events and his ability to work well with the division’s myriad stakeholders, both inside Capitol Square and among numerous law enforcement and public safety partners throughout the region. He also has a calm, professional demeanor in resolving issues that can become contentious.

McKee now succeeds Pike in leading an agency that has roughly 125 employees -- sworn law enforcement officers and civilian support personnel. The division traces its roots to 1618 and is recognized as the oldest law enforcement agency in the United States.

The division is responsible for 24-hour-a-day public safety services to members of the Virginia General Assembly; the governor and his family; lieutenant governor; attorney general; Virginia Supreme Court justices; Court of Appeals judges; thousands of state employees and more than 100,000 annual visitors to the Capitol complex. While its primary responsibility is the Capitol Square area, the division has jurisdiction throughout the city and has close working relationships with Virginia State Police as well as law enforcement and emergency response agencies across the capital region.



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