



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BURNSVILLE POLICE CAPTAIN TANYA SCHWARTZ NAMED NEW BURNSVILLE POLICE CHIEF**

Burnsville City Manager Melanie Mesko Lee announced on May 9 that long-time member of the Burnsville Police Department and current Captain Tanya Schwartz has been named Burnsville's seventh Chief of Police. Schwartz will succeed Eric Gieseke, who retired on April 30.

"It is such an honor and a privilege to be selected as Burnsville's next Police Chief. I am so grateful for the City's investment in me throughout my career, and am excited to give back and continue our strong culture of service and excellence in policing," said Schwartz. "I am proud of the men and women in our department and the work they do each day. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the City on the priorities they have identified as important to our agency moving forward."

Schwartz brings more than 23 years of police experience to the position, all with the Burnsville Police Department. She was first hired as a Cadet/Community Service Officer in 1995. In 1996, she was promoted to Police Officer. From there, she has worked up the ranks as Patrol Sergeant (2001), Detective Sergeant (2009) and Captain (2012).

As Captain, Schwartz has lead the patrol, investigations and professional standards divisions of the department. She has also represented the department on a number of committees and advisory boards, including the Dakota County Electronic Crimes Task Force Board, Dakota County Drug Task Force Board, Coordinated Community Response Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Equal Justice Committee and more.

"Tanya has provided many years of dedicated service to the organization and community, and I have confidence that she will bring that dedication along with a continued desire to fulfill the City's and department's top priorities now and into the future," said Mesko Lee. "Tanya's experience and perspective will continue to be valuable as a member of our leadership team, and as the head of our police department."

Schwartz holds a Master's degree in Public Safety Administration from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Augsburg College and a Law Enforcement Certificate from Metropolitan State University. She is also a graduate of the 264<sup>th</sup> FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. Schwartz is Burnsville's first female Police Chief.

### **About the Burnsville Police Department**

The Burnsville Police Department delivers a full range of police services to effectively protect lives and property of Burnsville's residents, business owners and visitors. The department uses community-oriented policing to partner with the community to provide public safety. The Burnsville Police Department has 75 sworn officers and 19 civilian employees.

For more information on the Burnsville Police Department visit [www.burnsvillemn.gov](http://www.burnsvillemn.gov).

*(photo below)*



**Cutline:**

Burnsville Police Captain Tanya Schwartz has been promoted to Burnsville Police Chief. Schwartz will be Burnsville's seventh chief since the City's incorporation.

*(high-resolution photo available upon request)*