



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

Jim "Billy" Barnes Memorial Lodge #71 – Pensacola, Florida

November 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #71, we are proud to offer our full and unanimous support for Erik Goss to be appointed as the next Chief of the Pensacola Police Department. Erik's dedication, professionalism, and integrity have defined his more than 27 years of service to the City of Pensacola and its citizens. His proven record of leadership, both within the Department and within the Fraternal Order of Police, makes him uniquely qualified to guide the agency into its next era of excellence.

Recently, Lodge #71 conducted a membership survey to gauge officer sentiment regarding the selection of the next Chief of Police. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of appointing an internal candidate — someone who understands the department's culture, history, and community relationships. This membership confidence reflects the officers' trust in proven leadership from within, and no individual better represents that trust and experience than Deputy Chief Erik Goss.

Erik has served in nearly every capacity within the Pensacola Police Department, from Police Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain, to his current position as Deputy Chief (Acting). In this role, he oversees the day-to-day operations of a department with more than 200 employees and a \$29+ million budget, while providing essential guidance to both elected and appointed city leadership. His leadership of the Community Outreach Division has strengthened relationships between law enforcement and the public through programs like the Community Response Specialist Program and the redevelopment of the Department's Mental Health Program

Erik's longstanding service within the Fraternal Order of Police demonstrates his deep dedication to officer advocacy, labor relations, and organizational transparency. Over the course of his membership, he has held the following positions:

- Treasurer for 10 years
- Vice President for 2 years
- President for 4 years
- State Trustee for 4 years
- Labor Board Director for 4 years

Additionally, he has led the Local Political Action Committee and served on the State Audit Committee for four years, ensuring accountability and ethical stewardship of union operations. His leadership within the FOP has earned the respect of peers statewide and highlights his consistent commitment to fairness, communication, and progress.

Educationally and professionally, Erik is well prepared for the challenges of modern policing. He holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University and a Bachelor of Science in Criminology

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707 E. Cervantes Street, Suite B, # 124, Pensacola, Florida 32501

Email: fop071@gmail.com • **Website:** www.FOP71Pensacola.org

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from Florida State University. He is also a graduate of both the Senior Management Institute for Police (Class 92) and the Florida Police Chiefs Association Future Chiefs Program, reflecting his commitment to lifelong professional growth and leadership excellence.

Erik Goss embodies the core values that define the Pensacola Police Department — Courtesy, Integrity, and Professionalism. His decades of experience, institutional knowledge, and visionary leadership make him the clear and deserving choice to serve as Chief of Police.

The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #71 proudly and confidently endorses Erik Goss for this position and urges his appointment as the next Chief of the Pensacola Police Department.

Respectfully,

James M. Parsons

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President, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #71
Pensacola, Florida

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