









# Deputy Chief Named To Run Police Division Temporarily

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MAY 12 1987

Richard Kwiatkowski, a deputy police chief since 1974, was named today to take over as acting police chief when Chief John Mason retires June 1.

Chief Kwiatkowski, 56, heads the division's support services bureau. He will begin working closely with Chief Mason at once on the transition.

Raymond Norris, city safety director, said the appointment will insure stability in the department.

"He's been around for the longest time," Mr. Norris said, "and he has the most experience."

Chief Kwiatkowski said, however, that he does not want to be considered as permanent police chief, since he plans to retire within a year.

Mr. Norris, who returned to the safety director's job just yesterday after serving as director of natural resources, said the administration hopes to name a selection committee within 30 days to pick a new chief. It would comprise people from inside and outside the administration and possibly a former chief of police.

Selection of the chief is ultimately decided by the city manager, according to the City Charter.



- Blade Photo

Richard Kwiatkowski

Philip Hawkey, city manager, said today that he plans to select the next chief from within the ranks of the division, but that the search would not be limited to those now holding the rank of deputy chief.

Mr. Norris declined to speculate who might be named to the selection committee, but the city has only

three known living former chiefs of police: Robert Duck, Corrin McGrath, and Walter Scoble.

Mr. Norris said Chief Mason's announcement caught the administration off guard and that selection procedures are not completed.

Some safety personnel said Deputy Chief Ronald Jackson was the likely replacement. He has been in charge of administrative services since December. A close second, the sources said, is Deputy Chief John Bryan, who was promoted to head the field operations bureau in 1984.

Sources said Chief Michael Lewis, who has been in his job since December, must also be considered. He heads the investigative services bureau.

Other names mentioned include Capt. Walter Abele, head of community affairs; Larry Armstrong, supervisor of personnel and fiscal affairs; Larry Dyal, head of training; Marti Felker, head of crimes against persons; Richard Koperski, head of planning and inspections, and James Wiegand, head of internal affairs.

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# Successor Named

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Chief Mason, speaking at a news conference yesterday, said his 24 years as a police officer "have been a rewarding challenge to me from the first day to the last" and said he hopes his service "has contributed in some small way to the quality of life in our city."

Retiring on a disability pension because of a chronic back problem, the chief said he believes the police division "is on a steady, progressive course" and is staffed by a group of men and women whose "bravery, devotion to duty, and professionalism have been an inspiration to me through good times and bad."

He said he would prefer that his successor be chosen from within the division.

Chief Mason, 47, said he had intended to keep his job until his 52nd birthday, but that he decided to retire now because he has been hospitalized four times in the last five years. He said, too, that his doctor had advised that he "get away from the job."

"There are no political pressures now that were any different than during the seven years I served as chief," he said. "But the job is a killer, it really is."

"You have to sit in that chair to appreciate the differing pressures," he said, adding that 1986 was particularly tough.

He said the events of last year, which included unfounded allegations that police officers beat a man in City Park and a prescription-drug investigation that implicated three

division employees, were not the specific reasons he is retiring.

"There are good parts of the job and not so good parts," he said.

Asked what he will miss about being chief of police, Mr. Mason replied: "Not a whole lot."

## Sick Benefits Total \$44,324

Through April, Chief Mason is eligible to collect \$44,324 for accumulated unused sick time, according to city finance records.

Records also show he has missed no time this year because of back injury. He missed 30 days in 1986, 23 days in 1985, and 34 days in 1984 because of the back injury and was paid for all of it.

Chief Mason said he had two accidents while on duty in 1981, both causing the back injury. The first involved a scuffle between an inmate and police officers and the second was when he slipped on ice in a city parking lot.

Mayor Donna Owens said she would have tried to talk Chief Mason out of retiring if she had known of his plans before yesterday morning.

"I just regret that I did not know beforehand," Mayor Owens said. "He was a man of honesty and integrity. His retirement is a tremendous loss to the city."

Councilman Carty Finkbeiner said the retirement is appropriate.

"I have been aware of the fact that his back has been a problem... for some time," Mr. Finkbeiner said. "I know Chief Mason felt uncomfortable that he was away from the Safety Building so much, and I haven't felt comfortable that he has been away so much."

Mr. Finkbeiner said City Manager Philip Hawkey should look for a replacement within the division.

William Dunn, president of the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association, said that despite longtime rumors of Chief Mason's retirement, he was surprised. Mr. Dunn said he too hopes the new chief is selected from within the division and that the association can provide input.

# Hawkey Names Felker City's Chief Of Police, Effective Immediately

By MIKE BARTELL  
and  
BENJAMIN MARRISON  
Blade Staff Writers

City Manager Philip Hawkey today named Capt. Marti D. Felker, a 20-year veteran of the Toledo police division, as the new chief of police.

Mr. Felker, 42, who had been head of the crimes against persons section of the detective bureau, assumes his new post immediately. He will be paid \$54,900 annually.

"There's a lot ahead of me," Mr. Felker said at a morning news conference at Government Center. "The main thing right now is to get brought up to date on where the division stands, and then go from there."

He succeeds John Mason, who retired in June, and becomes head of the city's largest division, which can have up to 750 officers and a budget of \$40 million.

He is the 22nd chief to head the division.

Richard Kwiatkowski, who had been acting police chief, will return to his former duties as deputy chief in charge of support services after assisting Chief Felker through a transition period.

"I've got a lot of confidence that Marti Felker will be one of our best police chiefs," Mr. Hawkey said at the news conference.

## Understanding Of Department

Mr. Hawkey, authorized by the city charter to name the new chief, said he picked Mr. Felker because of "his understanding of the police department and its role, and his willingness to evaluate and strengthen the relationship between the division and the community."

"He's expressed an eagerness to bring in more people to the decision-



— Blade Photo  
Marti Felker spoke at news conference this morning

making process, and I like that," Mr. Hawkey said.

Chief Felker said today he wanted to make the division more community oriented, obtain greater input from the officers, and allow his deputy chiefs to take a more active role in running the division.

Chief Felker was selected over Deputy Chief John Bryan, field op-

erations; Deputy Chief Ronald Jackson, administrative services; Capt. Larry Armstrong, personnel and fiscal affairs, and Capt. Larry Dyal, training. **AUG 26 1987**

The decision came after three hours of discussion yesterday by Operations Manager Michael White, Staff Manager Anthony Reams, Personnel and Civil Service Director William Logie, Safety Director Raymond Norris, and Mr. Hawkey.

"As the meeting went on, it became apparent to us that Marti was the best choice," Mr. Hawkey said.

Sources said, however, that Captain Felker was not Mr. Hawkey's first choice. **BLADE**

They said the city manager, apparently not totally pleased with any of the applicants, asked Mr. Mason on Sunday to resume the job.

When Mr. Mason rejected the offer, sources said, Mr. Hawkey apparently turned to the list of candidates.

## Mason Declines Comment

Mr. Mason acknowledged that he talked with the manager Sunday but refused to say what was discussed.

Mr. Norris said Mr. Mason's return "was an alternative being discussed, but as far as I know, John was not offered the job."

Mr. Hawkey said he didn't offer the job but did ask the former chief to help with the transition.

Mr. Norris said the decision was difficult because "no star emerged."

"But to say we weren't pleased is really unfair," he said. "I'm really looking forward to working with Marti. He's extremely honest and will consider all sides of an issue before he goes forward."

Chief Felker, born in Nashville, Tenn., has lived in the Toledo area most of his life.

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Kwiatkowski, Richard

Toledo City Journal November 6, 1954 p. 1341 (& Por.)  
Named a deputy police chief. Blade, 9-10-1974,  
Toledo history spbk. - Police - Deputies.

Genealogy

