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POLICE





2006 Goals and Objectives

Statement of Intent
The mission of the Toledo Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the City of Toledo by preserving life, enforcing the law, providing community services, and promoting joint problem-solving for a safe, secure, and healthy community.

TOLEDO POLICE

Police -

Scott Park captain is elevated to police chief

Navarre reportedly accepts new position

BY CLYDE HUGHES
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Toledo has a new police chief today, and it's former Capt. Jack L. Smith, according to Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's office.

Former Police Chief Mike Navarre, who led the Toledo department from 1998 until 8 a.m. today, reportedly took a lesser position as assistant and deputy chief, Robert Reinbolt, the new mayor's chief of staff, said yesterday.

Chief Navarre did not return a call seeking a comment. The agreement was reached yesterday, Mr. Reinbolt said.



Navarre
Last month, Mr. Finkbeiner, who was still just the mayor-elect, announced he would be promoting Captain Smith, a 33-year veteran of the department and commander of the Scott Park District Station.

Chief Navarre, through an attorney, objected, saying his forced removal would violate the city charter. But an agreement eventually was reached that appears to have avoided litigation.

"I accept and recognize [Mr. Finkbeiner's] desire to select members of his top administrative staff with whom he is most comfortable," the former chief said in a written statement. "Certainly I am disappointed, however, I am also grateful for the opportunity that Mayor Finkbeiner gave me in 1998."

The statement, released yesterday afternoon, said he will also become interim director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Mr. Reinbolt said the former chief was paid about \$92,000 annually as police chief. His pay as deputy and assistant chief will be \$91,200.

Chief Smith — who starts at 8 a.m. today and will be sworn in at 5:30 p.m. in a ceremony with other employees — said he expects to move into his new office in the Safety Building this morning.

Mr. Reinbolt said Chief Navarre will become an "assistant

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Chief

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chief," which would be on par with the deputy chief's position. He said he would receive other duties from the chief and report directly to him.

Chief Smith said he plans to make several announcements at the beginning of next week about new initiatives.

"I'm fired up and ready to hit the ground running," he said. "I would imagine next week will be a busy week."

Chief Smith, 57, was appointed to the department in March, 1973, promoted to sergeant in January 1983, to lieutenant in May, 1991, and to captain by



Smith

Chief Navarre in May, 2002.

He spent five years on active duty and 17 years in the reserves with the Marine Corps. He served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1970. Chief Smith said earlier he would try to persuade officers eligible to retire to remain on the force to keep the number of experienced officers from dwindling.

Mr. Finkbeiner appointed Chief Navarre, son of a former police chief, to his position in 1998, replacing Gerald Galvin, who took a police chief's job in Albuquerque, N.M.

Mr. Navarre was appointed to the department in 1977 and rose to sergeant in 1982, lieutenant in 1986, and captain in 1991.

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1-4-06

Jack Smith, sworn in Wednesday as chief of police, has hit the ground running and has many plans for the department. He has issued some new assignments in administrative positions, including sending some back to street duty. He also has issued a notice that command officers, who previously wore white shirts, are to sport blue shirts, the color that is worn by street officers.



THE BLADE/MEHHAL LONG

TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

From gangs to graffiti, chief has a lot of plans

By CHRISTINA HALL
BLADE STAFF WRITER

It's been sleepless nights and two long days for new Toledo police Chief Jack Smith.

Yesterday began with phone calls, a media interview, and a bus ride with the mayor and city directors.

It ended with a call to police dispatch, asking that officers be sent to a home after a resident called the chief's direct line to report a crime.

"Do the best you can do and be fair to the people you work with," said Chief Smith, who is known among the rank-and-file and on the street as "Batman." The name resulted, in part, from a pin he got from bomb-school training and from his crime-fighting activities on the

streets with now-retired Sgt. Ron Korzog, dubbed "Robin."

Sworn in Wednesday as chief, Mr. Smith has hit the ground running and has many plans for the department.

He has issued some new assignments in administrative positions, including sending some back to street duty. Deputy Chief Don Kenney, for example, was made a captain and assigned to the training bureau after former Chief Mike Navarre was named assistant chief under an agreement with incoming Mayor Carty Finkbeiner.

Chief Smith, 57, said he persuaded five officers who planned to retire to stay on, and that a police class of 30 is

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Chief

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on schedule for March to boost the city's declining force, which totals just over 670 officers.

A fashion change is also in the works. Chief Smith has issued a notice that command officers, who previously wore white shirts, are now to sport blue shirts — the color worn by street officers. "We are one department. We'll look like one department," he said.

The chief plans to hold one less staff meeting a week than the three former Chief Navarre held. One of the two meetings, Chief Smith said, will be a problem-solving session.

Chief Smith said his vision for the force is manyfold.

"I want it to perform to the highest level of potential, identify new [technological] resources, keep current with equipment, keep people interested in the job," he said. "I want to see a more active department, not reactive."

The chief plans to tackle gang and juvenile issues by having a more cooperative, 24-hour focus on that area. A lieutenant will be appointed a gang coordinator, and entry-team members will focus on gang and juvenile issues, supplementing the gang suppression unit.

"I want an accurate, up-to-

date database on gang names, alliances, frictions, territories and graffiti," he said.

Chief Smith wants to research grants for the gang unit, meet regularly with school and community service officers, and to talk with law enforcement officials in places such as Lima about gang matters. In addition, he would like to have gang and drug education programs in schools, possibly as early as in the elementary schools.

The chief said he wants to work with the city's department of neighborhoods and tackle quality-of-life issues such as loitering, prostitution, junked and abandoned cars, and unkempt residences. He has a few public relations projects in the works.

Next week, area police chiefs and sheriff's offices will meet to talk about common issues, such as gangs and sharing information and technology.

Gregg Harris, president of the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association, said his union and the union representing command officers plan to meet with the chief next week to review Mr. Smith's ideas. They plan to share concerns over issues such as manpower and new contracts.

"[Chief Smith] is an aggressive kind of guy. He'll do what he can to make sure that the criminals aren't running the city, that the police and the residents are," Mr. Harris said.

Chief Smith is respected by

rank-and-file officers, several officers said, calling him approachable and fair, and as someone who delegates and makes decisions. Defense attorney Alan Konop described Mr. Smith as a "hard-nosed cop."

"He's a policeman first. He always has been," said Officer Terry Wozniak, who worked with the chief when the latter was a sergeant. "You have to be a policeman first before you can be a leader."

Mayor Finkbeiner, who tapped the chief as the city's next top cop, said, "I believe he'll be a wonderful breath of fresh air in the department."

Chief Smith acknowledged some in the department may have reservations about him taking charge, including some simply apprehensive because they just don't like change.

"The only ones who have to worry about it are the ones who don't want to work," he said.

Born in Kentucky, he was the second oldest of eight children and moved to Toledo at age 3, when his father wanted to leave the coal mines. The family settled in East Toledo when he was in second grade.

A 1966 Waite High graduate, he entered the Marines after high school. Four years later, he began working day jobs — such as cable splicer and warehouse worker — while attending Owens Community College at night. He earned an associate

degree in law enforcement technology at Owens and joined the police academy. He graduated and moved up the ranks.

Chief Smith met his wife, Deb, when the two worked in North Toledo. She was a police officer; he was a sergeant and her boss.

"He was such a tough guy. I learned so much from him about the job," said Mrs. Smith, who retired last year as a police sergeant because of a disability.

At home, Mrs. Smith said her husband of nearly 15 years is a Mr. Fix-It who also likes to spend time with their 12-year-old twins, one girl and one boy.

"The kids are the center of his attention," she said.

"He's passionate about a lot of things. He loves this job. He won't be behind that desk. He'll be out there backing up crews, doing what he's always done."

At some point, Chief Smith will settle into his new office on the third floor of the Safety Building. He'll rearrange his desk so he can see out the door, which he said will remain open so anyone can have access to him and vice versa. He'll also put in the window a Batman light his children gave him.

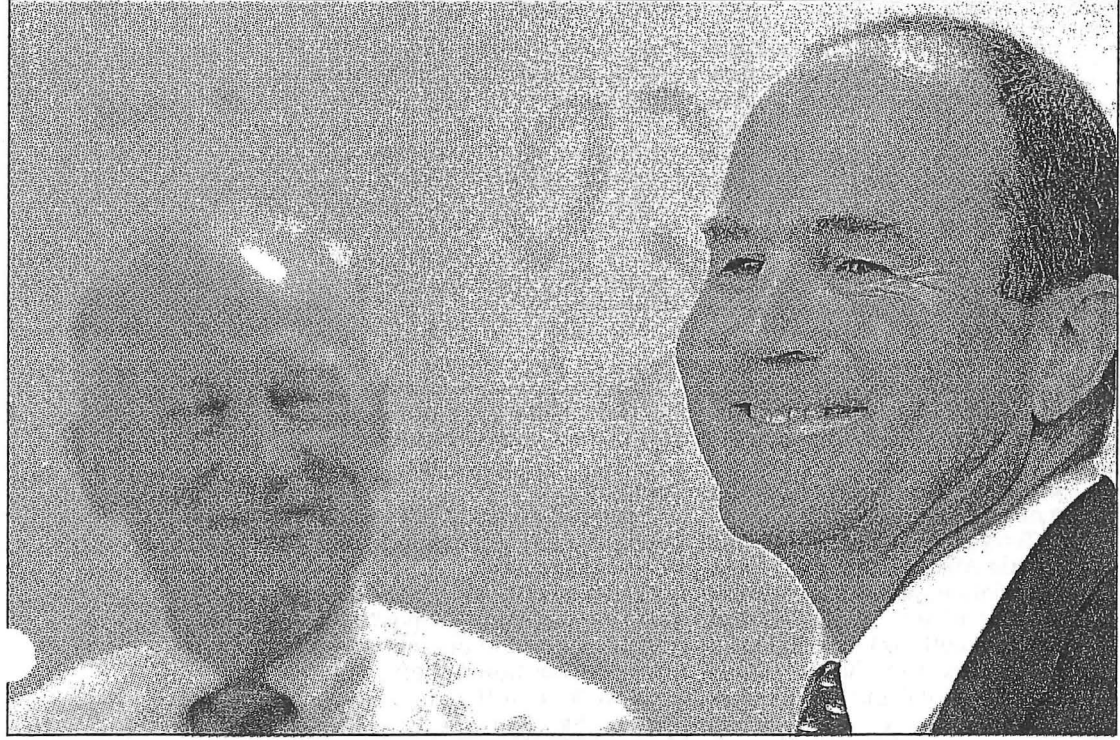
Once acclimated, he said he'll eventually be out on the streets with his officers.

"My number will be familiar with dispatch," the chief said.

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Police

Smith out, Navarre in as Toledo police chief



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, left, announces Mike Navarre's return as Toledo police chief.

Shuffle triggered by blowup with mayor

By **CHRISTINA HALL** and **ERICA BLAKE**
BLADE STAFF WRITERS *0.28.04*

A confrontation yesterday between Toledo police Chief Jack Smith and Mayor Carty Finkbeiner led to the chief's resignation and the mayor selecting the former chief as his permanent replacement.

The heated discussion that led Chief Smith to resign his position and return to the rank of captain occurred in the mayor's office during a morning meeting about the city's gang situation.

Hours later, former Chief Mike Navarre — whom Mr. Finkbeiner replaced six months ago — accepted the top police job effective immediately.

"When [Chief of Staff Bob] Reinbolt called me and asked me if I would be interested, without hesitation, I said, 'Yes,'" said Chief Navarre, 50, who will be paid about \$92,000.

Captain Smith, a 33-year veteran, said his decision was not easy, especially when he expected to serve as chief for two years. However, he said, he was "treated in a way I will not accept."

"To use his words, he is the big bull in the pasture. If he decides he wants to be the only bull in the pasture, I'll find another pasture," the 58-year-old captain said of Mr. Finkbeiner.

The captain said he can tol-

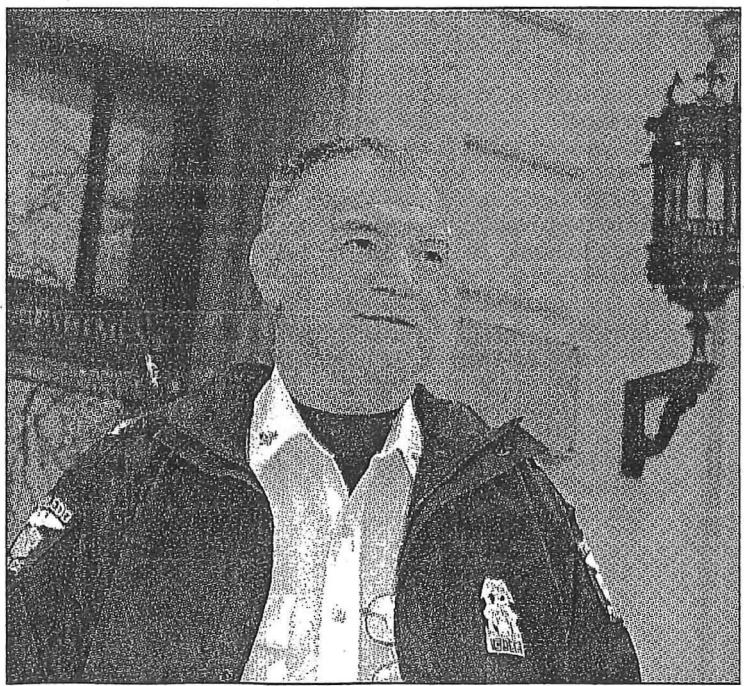
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WHAT THEY SAID

"To use his words, he is the big bull in the pasture. If he decides he wants to be the only bull in the pasture, I'll find another pasture."
— Capt. Jack Smith, of Mayor Carty Finkbeiner

"The most important thing I'm concerned about is that every citizen of the city understands that ultimately the buck stops on my desk. I can't be guided by what people think of me. I have to be guided by what will move the city forward."
— Mayor Carty Finkbeiner

"When [Chief of Staff Bob] Reinbolt called me and asked me if I would be interested, without hesitation, I said, 'Yes.'"
— newly appointed Chief Mike Navarre



THE BLADE

Saying he was 'treated in a way I will not accept,' Jack Smith resigned yesterday as chief and returned to the rank of captain.

■ Navarre's career is on the rise again. Page 6.
■ Finkbeiner has angered employees before. Page 6.

Chief

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erate criticism, but, "I will not tolerate abuse." He said he is not the only administrator in the Finkbeiner administration who is "unhappy with the way they're being treated."

"[Mr. Finkbeiner] is not a coach. He is not a cheerleader. He's a senior executive of a major city, and he needs to act like that," he said.

Captain Smith said the confrontation "was very close to being physical" and that an administrator stepped in between him and the mayor. Mr. Finkbeiner denied the situation escalated to that point, but said both men stood from their chairs.

"If anybody here thinks this 67-year-old man is going to take on a stronger, younger, ex-Marine with a revolver on his hip, you're wrong," the mayor said during a news conference.

Mr. Finkbeiner said the confrontation focused on a gang activity report, which he thought was too general. He wanted a more focused report on where gang activity was occurring.

The mayor also disagreed with the former chief when he said there was no more crime in the city's 4th Ward, which includes the Lagrange area, than 10 or 15 years ago.

"The most important thing I'm concerned about is that every citizen of the city understands that ultimately the buck stops on my desk," Mr. Finkbeiner said. "I can't be guided by what people think of me. I have to be guided by what will move the city forward."

Captain Smith said this was not the first run-in he's had with the mayor, but it was the first time it got that heated.

Mr. Finkbeiner said it was the "only single difference of opinion with Jack Smith I've had in six months," admitting that both men are "bull-headed individuals and, at times, we can both be

bulls in a china shop."

Sgt. Richard Murphy, the police department's public information officer, also said yesterday he will retire after 33 years on the force.

Dan Wagner, vice president of the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association, said he was a little surprised by Captain Smith's resignation and "totally shocked" by the mayor's decision to rehire Chief Navarre. "It's amazing how a man that just a few months ago wasn't capable of doing the job is now back as chief of police," he said, adding that the union has "always had a good working relationship with Mike."

"When Carty came in the office, he had his mindset on replacing Mike Navarre," Mr. Wagner added. "We weren't for it. We didn't push to get Mike removed. But when you have the chief executive officer coming in saying he's going to remove the chief, we had a duty to present a name."

Terry Stewart, president of the Toledo Police Command Officers Association, said he was shocked to hear of the resignation and said it's "nothing but a shame."

"I think the mayor should leave the policing to the professionals. As far as I know, the mayor's never been a police officer," Mr. Stewart said. "If the mayor would keep his nose out of things, I don't think this would have happened."

Union leaders said they welcome Chief Navarre back and will work with him as they did in the past.

Mr. Stewart said he was surprised Chief Navarre returned to his former job after being treated the way he was before being demoted. In December, Mr. Finkbeiner — then mayor-elect — announced he would promote Captain Smith to chief. Chief Navarre objected, saying his forced removal would violate the city charter. An accord was reached, avoiding litigation.

Chief Navarre became the department's assistant chief.

Yesterday, Chief Navarre said

he thought the split was "amicable" and said he never really left the "Finkbeiner team" even though he served in a different assignment the last six months.

City Council members were disappointed by Captain Smith's resignation, but few were surprised. Citing the mayor's record of confrontations with employees — Marti Felker resigned as police chief in 1994 during Mr. Finkbeiner's first stint in office — most council members expressed concern the city was losing an experienced leader.

But news that Chief Navarre was returning helped curb concerns that one of the city's most important positions would be left unmanned.

"I worked with Navarre just about the whole time I've been on council. I had a very good working relationship with him," said Councilman Wilma Brown, chairman of the public safety committee.

"Mike is a great guy. He was a good choice," council President Rob Ludeman said.

Councilman Frank Szollosi said he understood the position Captain Smith found himself in yesterday because he, too, had once worked for the mayor and left "because I couldn't work for the guy either."

"I know how committed Captain Smith is to the citizens of Toledo. The gravity of the decision shouldn't be made light of. It speaks to something about the character of the mayor. He can't keep good people close to him," Mr. Szollosi said.

Councilman Michael Ashford said the mayor's management style is well-known and should have been apparent to those who agreed to work for him.

"I'm disappointed, however, not surprised, but disappointed that they have let personalities cloud their overall mission to provide safety for children, families, and citizens in the city of Toledo," Mr. Ashford said.

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PAGES OF OPINION

Toledo, Ohio

THURSDAY, June 29, 2006

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Over in a flash

THE unbridled bullying by Mayor Carty Finkbeiner that led to the resignation of Jack Smith as police chief couldn't be justified in terms of proper personnel procedure, but the outcome in all likelihood will be a plus for the City of Toledo.

Captain Smith — he's returned to his previous rank in the police department — seemed to lack the thick skin necessary to survive in the chief's job under the mercurial mayor.

A heated argument with Mayor Finkbeiner ends Jack Smith's brief tenure as chief of police

At the time of his abrupt departure, Captain Smith was taking a public beating for his role in two policy fiascoes, a praiseworthy but unworkable proposal to punish parents for criminal acts by their children and the tow-or-ticket targeting of opponents of the unpopular South Toledo bike path.

The new (and old) chief, Mike Navarre, is a welcome replacement, although some will wonder — with valid reason — why he has chosen to so eagerly align himself again with the mayor. It was Mr. Finkbeiner, after all, who first appointed him chief in 1998 and then, after last year's election, unceremoniously pushed him out of city hall in favor of Captain Smith.

Chief Navarre has been a good cop for 28 years and overall performed admirably as chief the first time around. The criticism he sustained after last October's riot over the presence of neo-Nazis in North Toledo was, we believe, largely undeserved.

Most of all, Chief Navarre clearly understands the role of the news media in city affairs and — unlike the mayor and Captain Smith — has never allowed criticism of city policies to color the exercise of his duties.

Nevertheless, his return as chief post was consummated after a flash of mayoral anger that was vintage Carty. Captain Smith, no one needs to be reminded, is only the latest of more than a dozen mayoral aides who have departed from city service on the cusp of Finkbeiner tirades over the years.

On Tuesday, the mayor and Mr. Smith reportedly had an angry confrontation over what to do about gang activity in the city. Words, including a few barnyard obscenities, flew and, from what we understand, the two almost came to blows.

Whether Captain Smith is correct about Mr. Finkbeiner's compulsion to be "the biggest bull in the pasture" is really immaterial, and old news. The mayor earnestly believes he is more effective knocking a few heads.

Indeed, Mr. Finkbeiner was returned to office last fall by voters who were eager for a renewal of the energy and civic boosterism he demonstrated during his first two terms. And they were evidently unconcerned about more sturm and drang between the "good Carty" and the "bad Carty," however embarrassing his antics.

As Mr. Finkbeiner's third term dawned in January, there were indications that the mayor might live up to a campaign promise to curb his temper. Now it looks as if the mayor is adopting a "no more Mr. Nice Guy" attitude in order to shake up city government.

That's not necessarily bad. We doubt he offended very many Toledoans when he lectured city employees for what he saw as run-down conditions in city parks. The downside is that the mayor's health remains in question and top-flight people might not want to work for him.

Still, despite the messy transition, Captain Smith's decision to step down and "find another pasture" was a positive development for the city. The police chief's office should be in good hands with the return of Mike Navarre.