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Stop by Burleson City Hall on Wednesday, June 4, to meet the Burleson Police Department's new chief, Billy Cordell. The reception is 3 p.m.-5 p.m. in the council chambers at 141 W. Renfro St.

Cordell will be sworn in as police chief at the June 2 city council meeting. The swearing-in will take place at the 7 p.m. meeting, also at city hall.

Cordell was one of 78 to apply when the position opened in December 2013. He has been with the Fort Worth Police Department since July 1985 and served as a deputy chief since 2011. Cordell graduated from Weatherford Senior High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Texas Wesleyan University in 1993. He earned his master's peace officer certification in 1999 and attended the FBI National Academy in 2000 and Leadership Fort Worth in 2004. During that time Cordell served as lieutenant over jail operations, Neighborhood Policing District One and the violent personal crimes section (1998-2004).

Cordell served as captain over the central division, executive services bureau, and criminal investigations division (2004-2008); major over North Command (Central, North and West Patrol divisions, 2008-2011); and deputy chief over operational command, where he managed grants, contracts, research and planning, records, auto pound and fleet, backgrounds and recruitment (2011-present). Cordell has completed nine hours toward a master's degree in management from Texas Wesleyan.

The Fort Worth Police Department honored Cordell with a Life Saving Award in 1989, Special Services Officer of the Year in 1991 and Command Officer of the Year in 2002 and 2009.

Cordell will take over command of an 82 -member department - 61 sworn and 21 non-sworn personnel.

The Burleson Police Department has had at least eight chiefs of police since the 1960s. They include William Altizer (February 1962-August 1964), William Howe (August 1964-January 1966), Homer Barns (March 1966-December 1982), Don Maxon (February 1983-August 1984), Keith Rippy (April 1985-February 1988), Roger Rountree (June 1988-April 1993), Harvey Hightower (November 1993-June 2001) and Tom Cowan (November 2001 to December 2013).