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East Palestine Police Chief Jim Brown Announces Retirement; Patrolman Chris Weingart Named Successor

East Palestine, Ohio – The Village of East Palestine today announced the retirement of Police Chief Jim Brown, effective December 6, 2025, following 25 years of service, with the last 8 years serving as the Chief of Police.

Stepping into the role of Chief of Police is **Patrolman Chris Weingart**, a 20-plus-year veteran of the East Palestine Police Department. Chris has served in virtually every capacity within his law enforcement career, from patrol officer to Sergeant, and most recently as second-in-command. Known for his operational expertise, collaborative style, and deep institutional knowledge, he is well prepared to build on Chief Brown's foundation. "Chris excels in administration and has deep understanding of the Officers and the Community," Chief Brown said. "He has my full confidence, and I know he will lead with the same dedication that has defined our team."

"Chief Brown has been more than a leader—he has been a steady hand and a trusted voice for our village," said Antonio Diaz-Guy, Village Manager. "This retirement is the culmination of a long-held personal plan, and we are grateful he chose to spend the entirety of his distinguished career here." Under his command, the department strengthened community partnerships, modernized training protocols, and maintained a visible, proactive presence that helped restore confidence in public safety. His departure reflects thoughtful planning, and confirmation that the department will be left in the capable hands of his team.

Village officials expressed enthusiasm for the transition, noting Weingart's promotion ensures continuity and stability. A swearing-in ceremony is planned for December 6th, 2025. The East Palestine Police Department remains committed to serving with honor, transparency, and excellence.