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New police chief sworn in

University graduate Jim Hill aims to strengthen community policing

By G. Jaros
Oregon Daily Emerald

Jim Hill was sworn in as the new Eugene police chief by City Manager Jim Johnson on Wednesday.

Hill has been acting as the interim police chief since February 1998, following the resignation of Chief Leonard Cook.

"We really need to have a conversation about community policing," Hill said. "What does Eugene want us to do, how do we do it and how do we pay for it?"

Hill said the issue of community policing is about partnerships with many other agencies as well as the people of the community.

"Most important is setting up a police commission to get the community engaged with the police," Hill said. "It is the biggest part of moving forward. How do we bridge the gap with parts of the community that feel disenfranchised? That's what the police commission will be about."

One of the challenges for the police department is that it is a young force with young supervision, Hill said. Four new

sergeants were sworn in last month, as well as new lieutenants and a new division manager.

"We have junior staff throughout the department, which means a steep and short learning curve," Hill said.

Attracting new staff to the department is of strategic importance because of positions left vacant by natural turnover and retirements, Hill said.

Johnson said Hill received support from all areas of the community for the position.

"It was the strong support from line staff, from management teams, from other personnel, letters from the community, letters from all kinds of people saying Jim Hill is the person that should be the police chief," he said.

Hill has lived in Eugene since 1968. He received bachelor of science degrees in political science and psychology from the University and became a Eugene police officer in 1974.

Mayor Jim Torrey said Hill was the candidate best fit for the community.

"I can't tell you how pleased I am that it happened to be a person that has worked his way up through the ranks of this department," Torrey said.

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Holy Thursday (April 1)

7:30 a.m. Tenebrae (Morning Prayer)
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (April 2)

7:30 a.m. Tenebrae (Morning Prayer)
12 noon Stations of the Cross
(walking to Hendricks Park)
7:30 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday (April 3)

9:00 a.m. Tenebrae (Morning Prayer)
8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday (April 4)

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Easter Mass



St. Thomas More University Parish
1850 Emerald St., Eugene
343-7021
www.efn.org/~newman

Oregon Emerald

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