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San José Appoints New Independent Police Auditor *Chris Constantin Unanimously Appointed by City Council*

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – The San José City Council today unanimously voted to appoint Chris Constantin as Independent Police Auditor.

“Chris brings the right combination of expertise in community engagement, auditing, and public safety that will guide the office of the IPA in the coming years,” said Mayor Reed. “His work as an auditor has been recognized nationally and internationally. Chris’s proven ability to connect with the community is an asset. His understanding of the key law enforcement areas of internal affairs investigation, use of force, and practical experience will serve San José well in a position that requires communication, collaboration, and cooperation with a diverse community.”

Constantin currently serves as a Senior Program Performance Auditor in San José’s Office of the City Auditor, where he has overseen a wide variety of audits, including recent reviews of police and other public safety programs. Since 1996, he has served on the West Valley-Mission Community College District Board of Trustees. In 2005, Constantin became a reserve police officer for the City of Hayward.

“I am honored that the Mayor and City Council have selected me for this critical position,” Constantin said. “I am looking forward to getting out in the community and listening to the ideas and concerns that residents and constituent groups have for our community and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor.

The son of immigrant parents who settled in San José, Constantin first language was Greek, he then learned English as a child, an experience that has informed his work with the community. At San José State University, he was responsible for working with the university’s ethnic and cultural groups as a Director of the Associated Students Board.

Constantin was interviewed and approved by the full Council following a recruitment and interview process that included panel interviews with members of the community and the Mayor and Councilmembers Nora Campos and Pete Constant. The community panel members were: Elisa Marina Alvarado; Mariel Caballero; Rick Callendar; John Carr; Josue Garcia; Victor Garza; Helen Hayashi; Junaid Islam; Robert Sippel; Clark Williams; and Forrest Williams.

Chris Constantin Biography

Chris Constantin currently is a Senior Program Performance Auditor for the City of San José. Constantin has served on the West Valley/Mission Community College Board since 1996 and was the country's youngest Board President in 1999. He has served as a reserve police officer for the City of Hayward, volunteering as a patrol officer, where he has developed a commercial anti-graffiti compliance program and neighborhood traffic enforcement team. Previously, Constantin worked in the high technology sector and has served on the boards of directors for several non-profit organizations.

Constantin holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, a Bachelor of Science of Engineering degree from San José State University, and a certificate in Peace Officer Standards and Training from Evergreen College. Constantin is a Certified Law Enforcement Auditor.

He is a member of the Association of Local Government Auditors, Government Finance Officers Association, Community College League of California, International Law Enforcement Auditors Association, National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, and Institute of Internal Auditors.

At the City of San José, Constantin has led and/or participated in numerous audits including financial assessments of non-profits, evaluation of Citywide grant oversight, review of City procurement cards and cellular phone usage, police retirement projections, and compliance reviews. His work resulted in saving hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. The Association of Local Government recognized Chris's work by awarding a Special Project award in 2001 and the coveted 2006 Knighton Award. He developed and conducted numerous training sessions including audit training for the National Audit Office of China and regional Chinese audit organizations, the Institute of Internal Auditors, and the Association of Local Government Auditors.

Constantin's community service includes numerous presentations around education and public safety with diverse community groups, volunteer folk dancing instruction, and working to bring a high school-to-college bridge program for at-risk youth to West Valley and Mission Colleges.

After working with community college students from diverse ethnic groups and identifying the barriers they faced to achieving higher education – such as the high cost of text books– Constantin created a \$4.5 million endowment fund to cover tuition and book costs for qualified students.

At San José State University, he participated in the development of a student-run child care center and helped develop a half-million dollar scholarship fund. While at Syracuse, Constantin worked to improve County Court information processes, consulted on a planned merger of Legal Aid and Legal Services for Central New York, and conducted a needs assessment for a large county park revitalization project. He received mediation training through the Syracuse Law School and participated in family dispute mediations.