



**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS  
PRESS RELEASE FROM  
CITY MANAGER PETER PIRNEJAD**

**INTRODUCTION OF CAPTAIN NEIL VALENZUELA  
OCTOBER 7, 2022**

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the City Managers for Cupertino, Los Altos Hills and Saratoga are happy to introduce Captain Neil Valenzuela as the selection for the next West Valley Patrol Division station commander. On December 12, Captain Valenzuela will transition into the leadership role currently held by Captain Rich Urena, who has been the longest tenured and well-beloved West Valley Captain since August of 2016. Captain Urena will take over command of the Sheriff's Investigative Services Bureau at Sheriff's Headquarters.

Captain Valenzuela began his career with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office in 2001 and has over 20 years of law enforcement and managerial experience. Throughout his career, Neil Valenzuela has worked various assignments including patrol, where he worked for the cities of Cupertino, Saratoga, and Los Altos Hills. He later worked as a Headquarters' detective investigating missing persons cases and child abuse crimes. He later returned to the West Valley Division where he investigated high-tech crimes, identity theft, burglary, and fraud. Upon his promotion to Sergeant, Neil Valenzuela transferred to the Investigator position for the County Counsel's Office, investigating incidents of high liability throughout the County of Santa Clara. Upon his promotion to Lieutenant, he was the Assistant Division Commander for West Valley Patrol along with Captain, now Undersheriff Ken Binder. Neil Valenzuela was then transferred to lead the Internal Affairs Unit from 2015 to 2019. In 2019, he returned as the Assistant Division Commander for the West Valley Division alongside of Captain Rich Urena. In 2022, he was promoted to Captain and was assigned as the Sheriff's liaison for Stanford University, Department of Public Safety.

Captain Valenzuela is a U.S. Army Veteran with an Honorable Discharge, holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social and Criminal Justice, an Associate of Arts in Administration of Justice, and is a graduate of the City of Cupertino's Leadership 95014 program. His certifications include certificates for California POST Advanced, California POST Management, and California POST Intermediate Academy Instructor. Captain Valenzuela has received numerous commendations throughout his career including Cupertino's Chamber of Commerce Officer of the Year, De Anza Optimist Club Officer of the Year, City of Cupertino Certificate of Appreciation, and a Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Certificate of Commendation.

Captain Valenzuela is looking forward to coming back to the West Valley Patrol Division to serve the Cities of Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, Saratoga and the unincorporated residents of the west valley. The Town will be announcing a welcoming reception in the coming months. In the meanwhile, Captains Urena and Valenzuela will start the hand off process to ensure there is a smooth transition. Please join us in welcoming Captain Valenzuela to the Town.

