



**PRESS RELEASE  
CITY OF COLEMAN  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

200 West Live Oak \* P.O. Box 592 \* Coleman, Texas 76834

**C**ommitted to our Residents, **O**rganizational Pride, **L**eading by Example, **E**xcellent Customer Service,  
**M**aking a Difference, **A**ccountable for our actions, **N**ever settle for less – We are **COLEMAN**

**November 20, 2020**

Effective November 21, 2020, Chief of Police Anthony Smith is no longer with the Coleman Police Department. Following the Charter Amendment Election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, in which the voters of the City approved Proposition C, providing that the Chief of Police shall no longer be elected by the voters but instead will be appointed by the City Manager and become subject to the administrative direction of the City Manager, the position of Chief of Police has become an “At Will” position and no longer subject to the terms of the elected office.

City Manager Diana Lopez stated, “It became quite clear following the assessment of the Coleman Police Department performed by Max Westbrook Consulting in June of 2019 and a reassessment in September of 2020, that there were a number of issues with the leadership of the department. Chief Smith was provided a road map to success and given over a year to correct those deficiencies. It is clear that deficiencies still exist and Chief Smith is not willing to correct those issues. I believe it is in the best interest of the City for Chief Smith to leave the department and allow us to move forward with the search for a new Chief. This was not an easy decision. Chief Smith has been a long-time employee of the Department, and was offered a generous severance package to ease his transition. We will now proceed with the appointment and confirmation of a highly qualified Interim Chief to manage the Department until a new Chief can be located. I have great faith in the resiliency of our Police Department and know that we can make it through this transition, continuing to provide quality law enforcement services to our citizens.”

Mayor Tommy Sloan stated, “The City Council and I fully support the decision of the City Manager. It is always a difficult decision to part with a long-time employee but we believe that this is in the best interests of Coleman. It is the City’s goal to ensure that the Coleman Police Department is the best that it can be in order to provide the best law enforcement services possible to the citizens of Coleman. I am confident that the City Manager’s appointment of an experienced Interim Chief, and a future Chief of Police, working alongside our hard-working police officers, will provide the quality law enforcement services that our citizens deserve.”