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## City looks to fill top police jobs

### Department's captain, chief leaving posts

By LIZ SHEPARD  
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Port Huron Police Department's two top positions will be vacant in less than a month.

Chief Don Porrett's tenure ends Jan. 1 and Capt. Jim Jones will retire to take a full-time position at St. Clair County Community College.

"I love working for Port Huron PD. With the decades that have gone by, I decided it was time to move on and this was certainly an excellent opportunity," he said.

Jones, 50, said he decided late last month that he couldn't pass up the opportunity when the college job was posted. He's been an adjunct instructor at SC4 since 1997.

"It's been a wonderful ride for the last 28 years. Gosh, if I could go back and do it all over again I wouldn't change a thing. I've been really blessed," he said.

Jones joined the force in 1982, but first worked with the department as a cadet in 1978 before leaving to finish his education.

Jones grew up in Cottrellville Township and graduated from Marine City High School.

He said he'll miss his time as a police officer but is looking forward to teaching in the college's criminal justice program.

"I'm going to miss it tremendously. I have been privileged to serve Port Huron," Jones said. "Not only the people I work with, but the citizens of Port Huron have been overwhelmingly good to me over the last three decades."

Jones said one of the rewarding cases he has been a part of was the Braylon Gonzales case. The 18-month-old was killed in 2005 and kept in a storage container for two years by his parents. John William Gonzales, the boy's father, was sentenced to life in

prison in 2008. Braylon's mother, Ashley Snowden, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter, second-degree child abuse and accessory after the fact in 2008. She was sentenced to 5 ½ to 15 years in prison.

"That was a tough one for all that were a part of that investigation," Jones said. "I was very proud to be a part of that team ... I hope we brought some closure to Braylon's family."

Jones said retirement also will allow him to spend more time with his wife, four children and four grandchildren.

"I realize, in my time as a law-enforcement officer, they've had to endure a lot of me not being around," he said. "One of the things I'm really looking forward to is spending a lot of time with my family."

City Manager Bruce Brown said he'll leave the task of appointing a new captain to the new chief.

He said 30 people have applied for the chief's position.

The city has contracted with Jorgenson Consulting to aid in the search. Brown said the firm is expected to recommend three to five candidates to the city in the next month or so.

From there, the city will conduct interviews.

In the meantime, Brown said he'll find someone to head the department.

"Rather than leave the department leaderless, I'll

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likely appoint an interim chief," he said.

Brown said he originally thought of Jones as the person he'd have chosen as the interim chief.

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