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Reaves named Port Huron police chief

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A Macomb County law enforcer will be heading north to lead the Port Huron Police Department.

City Manager Bruce Brown announced Friday that Michael Reaves, chief of the Utica Police Department, has tentatively accepted the vacant Port Huron post.

Reaves has been chief in Utica since 2003. He started with the department in 1979 as a police and fire dispatcher.

"We are in the process of negotiating his contract and expect to reach agreement sometime next week," Brown said in a prepared statement Friday afternoon. "Mr. Reaves will assume the position in about two weeks and will be formally introduced to the community at the City Council meeting on March 14."

Reaves' appointment comes just five days after city council agreed not to disband the department in favor of contracting with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office.

According to Brown Reaves, a Macomb Township resident, has agreed to relocate to Port Huron.

Reaves, in an application letter, stated he will look to build bridges in the department, which has not only been in search of a chief, but is also losing top command officer Lt. Larry David, who took over as acting chief on Jan. 1 when former chief Don Porrett retired.

"Leadership means having the ability to inspire confidence and support among the people that are needed to achieve your organizational goals," Reaves wrote. "I try to invest in my supervisors a sense of urgency and a commitment to excellence."

He went on to state he will be looking to put forth a vision for the department.

"As the chief of police for the Port Huron Police Department, it will be my responsibility to articulate a clear and concise vision that encompasses the department's goals, expectations and mission," he said. "I am a good fit for the Port Huron Police Department and the community it serves."

Reaves holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Madonna University and has worked as security coordinator for Dave and Buster's Inc. of Utica as well as a security analyst and private investigator for Meade Group in Utica.

