

Westminster Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Former Police Chief/City Manager Mitch Waller Killed in Tragic Traffic Accident

Just after 10:00 a.m. this morning, the California Highway Patrol contacted our department to inform us that our former Chief of Police/City Manager, J. Mitchell Waller, had been killed in a traffic accident.

Chief Waller, an avid cyclist, was on a ride with another Westminster city employee in the area of Highway 133 and Highway 73 when they were struck by a motorist. Chief Waller was pronounced dead at the scene. The other cyclist was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. He is expected to make a recovery.

Chief Waller started his career with the Westminster Police Department in April of 1984. He worked as a motor officer, detective and Adjutant to the Chief of Police. He promoted to sergeant in March of 1991, and then to Lieutenant in December of 1995. He made the rank of Captain in November 2002 and finally reached his goal as the 10th Chief of Police for the City of Westminster in January 2010. In 2011, Chief Waller was named City Manager for the City of Westminster and retired from that position in 2012.

As stated, Chief Waller had a passion for cycling. He was a long time supporter of the Orange County Sheriff's Department "Project 999" Memorial Bicycle Ride, a fundraising event for fallen officers in which cyclist ride 620 miles from the California State Memorial to the Orange County Memorial.

Chief Waller is survived by his wife and two children.

