

Atherton Police Department swears in a new sergeant

32-year veteran will move to patrol supervisor from detective



Jeff Rickel, left, is sworn in as a sergeant of the Atherton Police Department by acting Chief of Police Joe Wade, at a City Council meeting on Feb. 15, 2017. (John Orr / Daily News)

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PUBLISHED: February 22, 2017 at 6:18 pm | UPDATED: February 22, 2017 at 6:28 pm

The Atherton Police Department is shuffling some officers around, as acting Chief Joe Wade deals with staffing issues.

On Feb. 15, at a City Council meeting, Wade swore in Jeff Rickel as the department's newest sergeant.

Rickel, 56, who has been a police officer for 32 years, joined the department in September 2014. His most recent job was as a detective in the investigative bureau.

The move to sergeant is a promotion. He will supervise two officers on night-shift patrol, and will take over the Atherton Police Field Training Program, said Wade.

Rickel's police career began with the Cal State Hayward (now East Bay) Police Department, then he moved to the Hayward Police Department, then spent 20 years working for the San Jose Police Department.

Rickel has served as a school resource officer, a child-abuse investigator, burglary detective and background investigator. He has also worked as a police academy training officer, field training officer, and high-speed/emergency vehicle driving instructor.

At the San Jose Police Department, Rickel, in addition to patrol work, performed audits in the chief's office, managed the San Jose City Attorney's Investigations Unit, and was a member of the honor guard.

On Wednesday, Wade said the Atherton Police Department is looking to recruit three new officers.

"It's like other agencies in the area," he said. "There is a limited pool of qualified candidates."

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John Orr John Orr edits and writes for Daily News feature pages, including arts and entertainment. He also reports on the Town of Atherton and some other cities. Previously, he was mysteries and thrillers books columnist for the Mercury News, and also wrote about movies and blues music.