



# KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS G. HILLEN | CHIEF OF POLICE

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### Kentwood Police Department Promotes First Female Captain Captain Stephanie Morningstar Sworn in on January 16

The Kentwood Police Department has welcomed its first female police captain.

Captain Stephanie Morningstar took the Oath of Office on Tuesday as she was promoted from sergeant to captain. Morningstar joins Captain Michael Bockheim, who was promoted to captain in October.

“We are delighted to celebrate the well-deserved promotion of Stephanie to captain,” said Kentwood Police Chief Thomas Hillen. “Stephanie was one of my first promotions to sergeant after I stepped into the Chief’s role. I’ve seen her work hard and watched her come a long way in our Department. I’m confident she’ll continue to accomplish great things in her duties as captain.”

Morningstar graduated from Grand Valley State University in 1996 with a degree in Criminal Justice. She started her career in Canton Township before accepting a position with Kentwood in 2000.

During her time with Kentwood, Morningstar has served in the Patrol Unit and Detective Bureau; she has also served as a field training officer and an honor guard member. She and her husband have two teenage sons. Morningstar is also an adjunct professor at the police academy at Grand Rapids Community College.

In October, the Department also swore in Captain Michael Bockheim. Bockheim is a 23-year veteran of the Kentwood Police Department, whose father is a retired officer of 30 years from the Grand Rapids Police Department. Bockheim has served in the Patrol Unit and Community Services Bureau; he has also served as a field training officer, canine officer, and Special Response Team member.

For more information about Kentwood Police Department, please contact Captain Bryan Litwin at 616.656.6681 or Holly Wolniakowski at 517.802.8156.

