



WASHINGTON

POLICE CHIEF

\$82,840 - \$100,693

Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply By

December 2, 2012

(First Review, Open Until Filled)

PROTHMAN



WHY APPLY?

Washington



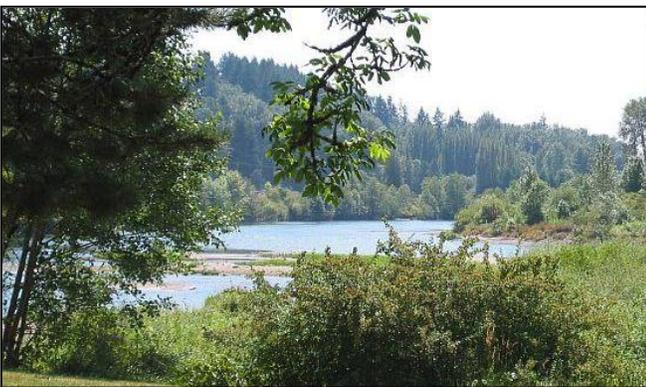
The City of La Center is conveniently located within the Portland - Vancouver metro area, and offers small town living with big city amenities close by. Known for its beautiful natural surroundings, small town atmosphere, and involved community members, La Center is a great place to work and live!

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THE COMMUNITY

The City of La Center is in Clark County and is located just east of Interstate 5 and borders the north side of the scenic east fork of the Lewis River. In the 1870s, La Center was a business center and head of navigation on the east fork of the Lewis River. With the arrival of railroads and highways, La Center lost importance and became a small village serving the surrounding farming district. Its population in 1940 was 192; to date the current population is 2,985.

La Center sits within the East Fork Lewis River Valley. The East Fork flows westward from headwaters on the western flanks of Lookout Mountain in Skamania County. Parks along the East Fork include Moulton Falls, Lucia Falls, Lewisville, and Paradise Point. There are many opportunities for recreation, including boating, fishing, and hiking. The moderate climate and ample rainfall support lush vegetation and beautiful gardens.



The La Center School District enjoys a strong reputation for academic achievement, and consists of a high school, middle school and elementary school. Higher education opportunities are availa-

ble nearby at Washington State University-Vancouver and Clark College.

Every year, residents, businesses and others participate in popular community events, including the annual Our Days Festival, the Christmas Festival, Movie Nights and Concerts in the Park, and the City-Wide Garage Sale.



THE CITY

The City of La Center was incorporated on August 23, 1909 and encompasses approximately 2.2 square miles (1,392 acres). The City provides services such as street improvements, public safety, sewer utility, growth planning, building code enforcement, and parks and recreation management. City residents enjoy a high ratio of parks and trails to population (over 7 acres of parks per 1,000 population and approximately 2.2 miles of trails per 1,000 population).

The City of La Center is a non-charter code city with a "Mayor-Council" form of government; policy and administration are separated. The Mayor serves as the chief executive officer and the five-member City Council serves as the legislative body, setting policy by city ordinances and resolutions. All legislative and policy making powers are vested in the City Council. The administrative authority, including a veto power, is vested in the Mayor. The Mayor and City Council members are elected at large by the voters living within the corporate limits of the City of La Center.

Mayor Jim Irish, currently in his third term, is the chief executive and administrative officer of the City. He is responsible for directing day-to-day operations, preparing the budget, hiring city personnel and working with the Council to implement the vision for the City of La Center. La Center is a

well-managed city and Mayor Irish enjoys a collegial relationship with the Council and staff.

The City's projected revenues for 2013 are \$3.9 million, and there are currently 35.25 FTEs. City departments include: Police, Finance, and Public Works.



Calls for emergency service are dispatched by Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA). The City contracts for jail services with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Fire Services are provided by Clark County Fire and Rescue which serves an approximate 65 square mile area including the Cities of La Center and Ridgefield and the communities of Enterprise, Highland, La Center, Pioneer, Ridgefield, and Sara. Court services are regionalized through an inter-local agreement with the cities of Battle Ground and La Center.

DEPARTMENT & POSITION

The La Center Police Department is committed to working closely with the citizens of La Center and to respond to the needs of the community. The department believes in working closely with the people in the community by building a relationship of trust, respect and understanding. The Police Department has an operating budget of \$1.5 million and consists of a Police Chief, one sergeant, six fulltime police officers and two administrative staff members.

The Police Chief is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Mayor. The Police Chief plans, organizes, directs and controls the functions of the Police Department and develops and implements procedures to protect life and property through law enforcement and crime prevention work. Duties of the Police Chief include:

- Reviewing and monitoring the daily operations of the Police Department, including logs, re-

ports, prosecution referrals, correspondence, etc.

- Supervise Police Department personnel including scheduling, training, and evaluating staff.
- Represent the City at meetings related to law enforcement activities and education.
- Schedule regular maintenance of department vehicles and maintain an inventory of department equipment.
- Oversees the enforcement of City Ordinances through the members of the Police Department, including briefing, training, and monitoring of gambling activities/establishments and liquor establishments.
- May go on patrol during a portion of the workday as needed.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- La Center is a growing community with a high quality of life and low crime rate. Maintaining the low crime rate and building relationships with the community will be of high importance.
- Although La Center is financially stable, budgeting in today's economy presents challenges.
- Four card room casinos result in an influx of people in the late afternoons and presents challenges and opportunities for the City.



IDEAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

La Center is seeking a "working" police chief who has demonstrated leadership and management skills to lead the Police Department, and the enthusiasm to run patrol when needed. The successful candidate will be highly ethical and principled, and must have enough confidence and discipline to lead the department with little direct supervision. La Center is a small city by day, but sees an influx of people in the late afternoon due to the four card room casinos in town. The ideal candi-

date will have an understanding of the policing techniques required to manage these facilities while maintaining an emphasis on community relations and engaging in community policing and partnerships.

La Center currently has a very low crime rate, so the ideal candidate must be current in policing principles and must show the ability to think strategically about future policing in a growing and changing community. The ideal police chief candidate will be a successful manager and leader from a progressive, well-managed organization and will demonstrate comprehensive technical knowledge of modern practices and proven techniques of police management.

A dedicated and tenured staff look forward to a candidate that will build cohesion and engage in active planning to move the department forward. The new chief will have a strong command presence while being a results-oriented consensus builder who creates a positive work environment.

The new chief will be a member of a dynamic management team and must work collaboratively with other team members. He or she must be disciplined to work independently, but must also be easygoing and approachable to staff and co-workers. A good sense of humor and the ability to build relationships with staff and in the community is a must.

EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION

This position requires ten years of increasingly responsible law enforcement experience, including at least five years of senior command and administrative experience. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in police admin-

istration, criminal justice, public administration, or a related field desirable; additional experience as a senior law enforcement manager or chief may be substituted for the college degree.

Possession of or ability to obtain a valid Washington Driver's License within 30 days of hire date is required. The employment offer will be contingent upon an acceptable and verifiable driver's license and driving history. The candidate selected for this position will be required to pass a drug screening and a thorough background, employment, and criminal history investigation.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$82,840 - \$100,693 DOQ**
- Health Care, Dental & Vision paid 100% by the City, 90% for dependents
- Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan, 5% of annual salary match
- Vacation & Sick Leave
- Long Term Disability paid 100% by the City
- Automobile Allowance: Exclusive/unrestricted uses of auto for 24 hr on-call
- Cell Phone Allowance: \$100 per month
- Professional Development as budget allows
- Professional Dues & Memberships as budget allows
- Incentive pay for AA degree is 2%, BS/BA 4%, MA 6%



www.ci.lacenter.wa.us

The City of La Center is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **December 2, 2012** (first review, open until filled). Applications, responses to the supplemental questions, resumes and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To apply online, go to www.prothman.com and click on "submit your application" and follow the directions provided. Resumes, cover letters and responses to supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in.

PROTHMAN

www.prothman.com

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