



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SHAUN RALSTON ELECTED PRESIDENT of the LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY IN SONOMA COUNTY**

SANTA ROSA, California (March 14, 2022) – The Law Enforcement Chaplaincy in Sonoma County (LECS) has elected Shaun Ralston as the organization’s new President. The local law enforcement nonprofit supports and cares for members of the community who have suffered tragedy and loss.

Ralston replaces outgoing President Gail Ahlas, former Superintendent of the Roseland School District, who, in her retirement, is enjoying traveling with her husband. “I’m so grateful for the progress we made during my six-year tenure on the Board”, says Ahlas. “Shaun is a seasoned board member, strategic leader and kind-hearted colleague. I’m confident that he’ll continue our work together developing and growing the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Service in Sonoma County.”

In his professional life, Ralston is the San Francisco North Bay Regional Manager at Sutter Health, one of the nation’s leading not-for-profit health care networks. For 22 years, Ralston’s work includes developing and managing health care programs along with supporting physician practice growth in San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma counties.

As an avid cyclist and fundraising event expert, Ralston has contributed his talents to organize the Chaplaincy’s “Tour de Fuzz” charity bike ride, [www.tourdefuzz.org](http://www.tourdefuzz.org). The annual event attracts 1,500+ participants and is the primary funding source for chaplaincy operations. Ralston is a top fundraising event participant for Social Advocates for Youth and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training. In the community, he served his cycling advocacy and riding passion as Chairman of the Santa Rosa City Council Bicycle & Pedestrian Board.

Ralston is Executive Secretary at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Santa Rosa and a former Sunday School teacher of 15 years. He admires likeminded volunteers performing spiritual and compassionate work in the community, particularly those of local Chaplains.

Ralston’s election as President comes as the organization implements a plan of financial and strategic growth to meet increasing service calls in the community. Chaplains are on call and available 365 days/year, around the clock. LECS currently has 20+ additional chaplain cadets in the training academy, scheduled to be commissioned for service in June 2022.

### **About the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy**

Since 1999, the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Service in Sonoma County (LECS) has provided support to law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, their families, and members of our community who find themselves in the midst of tragedy and loss. LECS serves Sonoma County law enforcement officers in cases of suicides, SIDS, death notifications, homicides, automobile accidents, Every 15 Minutes programs, school crisis teams, correctional support team. The organization has been recognized with the Volunteers in Courage Award by Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravitch, the National Jefferson Award and the Outstanding Service award by former California State Attorney General Bill Lockyer. To learn more about the organization, apply to become a chaplain or make a donation, visit [www.sonomacountychaplains.org](http://www.sonomacountychaplains.org).

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