

NEWS

From the Office of

Supervisor Neil Derry

County of San Bernardino, Third District

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Veteran journalist George Watson appointed Chief of Staff

Third District Supervisor Neil Derry announced this morning that veteran local journalist George Watson will become his new chief of staff.

The appointment must be ratified by the Board of Supervisors as required by the County Charter.

"I am very pleased that George has agreed to be the Third District chief of staff," Derry said. "I firmly believe he will be a tremendous asset to my efforts to bring greater transparency to county government."

"I've known George for several years, and his commitment to ethics and good government is second-to-none," Derry added.

Watson will replace Jim Erwin, who resigned earlier this week following his arrest stemming from a lengthy investigation by the District Attorney's Office into the county Assessor's Office.

As Derry's chief, Watson will serve as Derry's principal assistant while also being responsible for leading the supervisor's 12-person staff and coordinating day-to-day operations that provide services to the Third District's 400,000-plus constituents.

Watson has been a newspaper reporter and editor for the past 18 years. He has worked in the Inland Empire since 2001, with a focus on county government and politics over the past four years.

His career has taken him across the country, working at such as places as the Associated Press in New York City and the Hartford Courant in Connecticut. He is a graduate of Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y.