

# Police Chief Jerry Dyer says he's not running for Fresno mayor

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After months of speculation in political circles that Jerry Dyer would run for mayor, the longtime Fresno police chief said Friday morning that he plans to remain in his current position.

"I did have some private conversations with my executive staff about my optimism as to where we were heading as a department, and the fact I was excited about my role in leading them as their chief. The short answer ... I plan on being the chief for the next three years and 10 months. Give or take a month or two," Dyer said in an email to The Bee. "I have never publicly said I would be running (for mayor)."

With Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin terming out of office at the end of 2016, her open seat was expected to draw a large crowd of candidates.

But thus far the only declared candidates are two-term Fresno City Council Member Lee Brand, who represents the city's northeast district, and community activist and pastor H. Spees.

Brand has formed a campaign fundraising committee and has also amassed more than 100 endorsements, including prominent old-guard political donors such as George Andros, Jerry Cook, Richard Gunner and Richard Spencer.

Spees has the backing of former two-term Mayor Alan Autry, and it is expected that he will receive strong support from Fresno's evangelical community, which has backed the winning candidate in every mayoral race since the city switched to the strong-mayor form of government. Jim Patterson took office as Fresno's first strong mayor – with authority over the budget and the hiring of the city manager – in 1997.

Still to be determined is whether Fresno County Supervisor Henry R. Perea enters the race. He told The Bee on Thursday that he is contemplating a run and expects to make a final decision over the next 30 days.