

Media Release



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HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Finalists Identified in Search for Bluffton's Next Police Chief

Bluffton Town Manager Marc Orlando has selected two finalists in the hiring process for Bluffton's next police chief. The final round of interviews with these finalists will include a **public forum to meet the police chief candidates at the Rotary Community Center, Wednesday, July 18 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.** "The Town of Bluffton is seeking a police chief with proven leadership and management abilities," Orlando said. "As the Town continues to be one of the fastest-growing municipalities in the state and the southeast, Bluffton's new police chief is required to be acutely skilled in law enforcement management techniques while partnering with our closely-knit community as we all work together to keep our high standard of public safety."

The two finalists for Bluffton police chief are:

Herbert Blake

Herbert Blake is currently the chief of police for the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina. Since January 2008, he has been in this position leading and managing a staff of 65 employees. Blake was previously chief of police for the City of Loris, South Carolina for seven years. He formerly served as a patrol and support services lieutenant with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office in Ridgeland, South Carolina for four years as well as training as a law enforcement specialist with the U.S. Navy.

Blake has a master's degree in management from Webster University, and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Park University. He is a graduate of the 35th Management College of the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration in Plano, Texas; the Executive Management Program of Northwestern University; the Police Executive Development Programs (POLEX) of Penn State University; and the Public Executive Leadership Academy at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has also completed the Executive Leadership Institute, the Supervisor Leadership Institute and the Command Leadership Institute of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

Blake has served as adjunct faculty for business and criminal justice courses at several colleges and universities including Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC; Coker College in Hartsville, SC and Park University at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, SC.

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He and his wife, Linda, have five adult children.

Christopher Chapmond

Christopher Chapmond is currently the assistant police chief for the Hot Springs, Arkansas Police Department. In this position, he is responsible for the daily operation of the police department, managing a staff of 145 employees. Chapmond has been employed by the Hot Springs Police Department since 1996 where he has held the positions of field operations captain, patrol lieutenant, coordinator of the 18th East Drug Task Force, co-commander of the SWAT (Special Weapons & Response Team), detective, public information officer and incident commander of numerous critical incidents.

Chapmond earned a bachelor's degree in police administration from Columbia Southern University and is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Public Safety Command Staff School. Chapmond is a part-time instructor for the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute and is a firearms instructor, a professional law enforcement instructor and a CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) instructor.

Chapmond volunteers on the executive board of the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police as the Southwest Regional vice president. He is also a member of the Hot Springs National Park Rotary and has been active in coaching and mentoring young men in various organizations. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three sons.