



BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2018

Contact:

Chief J. Jeffrey Smythe

jsmythe@burlingtonnc.gov

(o) 336.229.3543

Leadership Changes

BURLINGTON, NC—

In 2018 the Burlington Police Department celebrated the retirement of two of its leaders. For over thirty years Assistant Chief Eric Kerns and Assistant Chief Chris Verdeck dedicated their careers to the citizens of the community. Both held their respective positions for the last seven years, during which the agency grew significantly under their leadership. Kerns' last day on the job was April 1st, 2018 and Verdeck is slated to retire on August 1st, 2018.

While the retirements of both of these great leaders will be felt by many, the agency has been preparing for their departure by implementing succession planning for many years. As a result of this planning, several experienced officers competed in an assessment process to determine replacements for the Assistant Chief positions. At the conclusion of the rigorous process, involving neighboring law enforcement professionals and community members, two internal candidates were selected to fill these roles.

In the spring of this year, the agency promoted Brian P. Long and Christopher E. Gaddis to the rank of Assistant Chief of Police. Both have recently begun working in their new positions, and the agency is excited to build upon their proven leadership. Ironically, both Long and Gaddis were hired by the Burlington Police Department on January 1, 1995.

Assistant Chief Long oversees the Department's Operations Bureau. Long holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Mt. Olive University. He has served in the Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Professional Standards Divisions. Long is heavily involved in the advancement of Intelligence Led Policing across the agency, a philosophy of strategically addressing crime issues by combining data and information to reach trackable outcomes. Long also graduated from the 258th session of the FBI National Academy in 2014.

Assistant Chief Long has been active in serving the community outside of his duties at the Police Department. Long is a former Board President for Crossroads and currently serves on the Alamance County United Way Board and Alumni Board at Alamance Community College.

Long is a native of Alamance County, is married, and has three daughters.

Assistant Chief Gaddis oversees the Department's Support Bureau. Gaddis holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University. He served as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer before being promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in 2006. He remained in the Patrol Division for nineteen years achieving the rank of Lieutenant. He spent two years in the Criminal Investigations Division, leading both the Department's detectives and Vice/Narcotics staff. He has also worked in the Community Relations Division assisting staff in continuing proactive community engagement efforts in Burlington. He is a recent graduate of the FBI National Academy, participating in the 270th session in 2017.

Assistant Chief Gaddis has been a certified trainer and instructor since 1999. He is an Adjunct Instructor in several specialty areas for the Department's Training Division, Alamance Community College, and the North Carolina Justice Academy.

Assistant Chief Gaddis serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Ralph Scott Lifeservices, and has volunteered his time for the State Employee's Credit Union Advisory Board, ABSS, and many other local organizations and causes.

An Alamance County resident, he and his wife have one son.

"I am excited about a shift in leadership for the police department. I certainly value and respect greatly the foundational work completed by Assistant Chief Verdeck and Assistant Chief Kerns, I know that Brian Long and Chris Gaddis are well positioned to move the agency forward. The transition to two new assistant chiefs is a golden opportunity for fresh perspective across all of our operations. We will continue to build relationships in the community and we will maintain 'Trust Through Transparency' as the mission for the agency." stated Police Chief Jeffrey Smythe.

Our Mission:

"The Burlington Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life, in partnership with our community, through fair and professional police services."

Burlington Police Department • 267 West Front Street, Burlington, NC 27215
www.BurlingtonNC.gov/Police • [www.Facebook.com/BurlingtonNCPD](https://www.facebook.com/BurlingtonNCPD) • Twitter [@BurlingtonNC_PD](https://twitter.com/BurlingtonNC_PD)