



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Announcing a Mid-Year Adjustment to Sworn Police Officers and Telecommunication Staff Salaries for the City of Burlington

Burlington, NC- On January 4, 2022 the Burlington City Council took action to approve a significant mid-year salary adjustment for sworn police officers and telecommunications staff to improve retention and recruitment for the department. The starting salary for sworn officers has increased to \$46,500 and telecommunications for \$39,998.

The Burlington Police Department like many other agencies is at a crucial juncture in staffing. These can be likened to competition against salaries offered in the private sector, pay for comparable jobs in the region and commuting area, planned retirements and resignations. Obtaining qualified applicants has also been challenging due to the recent decline in the labor force as well as the decline in applicants for law-enforcement positions across the board.

“Police really did get bookended between a short labor market and then a declining ambition to pursue the industry of law enforcement as a career.” stated Mayor Jim Butler

A Market Analysis Study was performed by Piedmont Triad Regional Council. This study was started in August of 2021 and was then presented to City Council for consideration on December of 2021. The study conducted, focused on a market analysis of competitive police agencies in the surrounding area. The data from that study informed the council of probable adjustments needed to starting pays for both positions to increase the applicant pool.

“This police department’s current staff team is highly talented and greatly valued. By creating good work conditions and offering competitive pay an organization can decrease staff attrition and increase submittals of qualified lateral entry and entry level applicants. Frequent hiring and training of new officers is not inexpensive, if we can recruit and retain good officers, we are setting ourselves up for success and making better long-term use of city funding. This will be a multi-faceted approach to help our department reach these goals.” stated Police Chief Brian Long.

“We are at a critical situation related to BPD’s staffing needs. I support all Chief Long’s recommendations and work towards his ideas on improving the department and the services provided to our residents, business owners, and visitors.” stated City Manager Hardin Watkins.

Burlington is a city with supportive elected official and community members. The department is a fast-paced premier law enforcement agency with 179 employees and has been CALEA accredited for over 30 years. BPD offers many special operations units including Vice/Narcotics, Special Response Team (SRT), K-9 Officers, Gang Unit and State Bureau of Investigations.

The city of Burlington is a mid-sized community of approximately 55,000 located along Interstates 40 and 85 in central North Carolina. Only 25 minutes from either the Raleigh-Durham or Greensboro metro areas and only three hours from both the mountains and the coast. Burlington offers a high quality of living at an affordable price featuring vast recreational opportunities.

Employment at BPD offers full insurance benefits, three retirement accounts and educational reimbursement opportunities. To learn more and apply go to www.BPDWorks.com.

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Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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