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**Town of Bluffton Appoints Lt. Donald “Scott” Chandler as Interim Police Chief**

Bluffton Town Manager Marc Orlando is pleased to announce Lt. Donald “Scott” Chandler as Interim Police Chief, effective Friday, April 13, 2018.

“Throughout Lt. Chandler’s nearly 20 years of his experience in law enforcement, he has demonstrated his ability to lead.” Orlando said. “Beyond his duties of a supervisor of two patrol shifts, he is also the commander of the department’s Strategic Response Team and has proven leadership in his managing the operations and response of this team’s high-risk calls.”

Lieutenant Chandler joined the Bluffton Police Department in 2006. During his 12 years in the department, he has served as a patrol sergeant, traffic unit sergeant, neighborhood services unit sergeant, investigations lieutenant and currently, serves as patrol lieutenant. In addition, Chandler is a firearms instructor for the department and is the commander of the Strategic Response Team (SRT). This team receives additional training and uses specialized equipment so they are able to respond to higher risk calls such as serving arrest and search warrants, negotiating with barricaded subjects and hostage situations.

Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka expressed confidence in Chandler’s selection as the interim police chief.

“Given Scott’s background and his performance as a leader in our police department, I feel the department, and more importantly, the community, is in great hands with him as our interim police chief,” said Sulka.

Chandler is a graduate of Liberty University with a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice/Public Administration and is also a recent graduate from Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command.

“I am honored to be appointed interim police chief,” Chandler said. “For the past 12 years, Bluffton has been my home, where I raise my family and where I have developed and grown my career. I

deeply care about this community and am professionally invested in providing public safety to all who live and visit here as I, too, want the best for my neighbors, friends and family.

“Bluffton is a special place and I am grateful to have the support of Bluffton’s Town Manager, Mayor and Council. As we all know, public safety is a partnership and, on behalf of the department, I appreciate the assistance, feedback and relationships our department has with Bluffton residents and business owners.”

Prior to the Bluffton Police Department, Chandler served the City of Akron, Ohio Police Department as a patrol officer, field training officer and a member of its Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team with additional duties as the team’s sniper. He was also a member of Akron’s bike unit, crisis intervention team and Honor Guard.

Lieutenant Chandler will serve as Bluffton’s Interim Chief of Police as the Town begins its search for its next Chief. The search will be open to both internal and external applicants and will be advertised through state and national outlets. The selection process is expected to involve public input as well as input from the Town of Bluffton’s Mayor and Town Council.

The Bluffton Police Department has policing jurisdiction throughout Bluffton’s 54-square miles and employs 51 sworn officers and 12 civilian employees.