

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Town of Bluffton's Announces Timeline for Police Chief Search

The Town of Bluffton is actively interviewing for its new police chief and is expected to announce its selection by late July or early August. The process began in mid-May as 63 applications were received from 24 states and two countries after the position was posted on several municipal, law enforcement and government employment sites. The process, which involves several phases of interviews, is expected to be complete by late July with a public announcement as soon as an offer is accepted.

"After a thorough screening process, Town leaders and staff have conducted first-round interviews with roughly a third of the applicants," Town Manager Marc Orlando said. "We've done well with the timeline we've established so far, but the timeline is tentative as we move to the next round involving the coordination of many individual schedules."

The pool of applicants represents the following states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Illinois, West Virginia, Nevada, Indiana, New York, Mississippi, Maryland, Texas, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, Oregon, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, New Mexico and Arizona. The Town also received two applications from Haiti and Nigeria.

The Town finished its first phase of interviews on Monday, June 18. The second round of interviews will soon begin after the top five candidates are selected. Those five candidates will be invited to Bluffton for a second, more in-depth round of interviews. This phase will include interviews with the town manager, the deputy town manager and the human resources director. In addition, these five candidates will also be interviewed by Mayor Lisa Sulka, Town Council and Terry Finger, the town attorney, the Bluffton Police Department chaplains and members of the Bluffton community.

After the top five candidates are interviewed, Town leaders and staff will invite the top three candidates back for a tour of the Town of Bluffton and a public forum during which media representatives, the public, senior staff, and elected officials can ask questions of the candidates. The top three candidates will also be interviewed one-on-one with Town Manager Orlando.

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Mayor Lisa Sulka said she was pleased with the process that has been established because it involves several facets of the Bluffton community.

“I think the input we’re looking for from the public, Town Council, Town Staff and even our police chaplains will help lead us to the chief who will best serve Bluffton.”