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Town Manager Selects Christopher Chapmond as Bluffton's Next Chief of Police

Bluffton Town Manager Marc Orlando has selected Christopher Chapmond as Bluffton's next chief of police. Chapmond, who is currently the assistant police chief for Hot Springs, Arkansas, will begin on or before September 1.

"Town leaders and staff are excited about Christopher Chapmond being hired as Bluffton's new chief of police," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "Throughout the two-month interview process, Chapmond demonstrated the leadership, law enforcement management skills and energy to advance the Bluffton Police Department to a higher level of public safety and community policing within our Town."

Town Manager Marc Orlando said the Town received more than 60 applicants from 24 states and two countries.

"Bluffton's search for a new police chief introduced Town leaders to numerous talented applicants with extensive law enforcement experience," Orlando said. "Dozens of people provided input to this selection process to include Town Council members, members of a citizens panel and the general public who attended the July 18 public forum. I believe Christopher Chapmond is the right fit for the Town to take our police department to its next stage of professional growth as an organization."

The Town held its final interviews on July 18, which included a public forum held at the Rotary Community Center and an interview with the Town Manager.

"I am grateful for the level of investment and involvement town leaders and residents had in this process and their partnership to our continuing high standard for public safety," Orlando said.

About Christopher Chapmond

Christopher Chapmond is the assistant police chief for the Hot Springs (Arkansas) Police Department. In this position, Chapmond 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 during which he has held the positions of: field operations captain, patrol lieutenant, coordinator of the 18th East Drug Task Force and co-commander of the Hot Springs SWAT (Special Weapons & Response Team). For the last eight years, Chapmond also served as incident commander of critical incidents for the Hot Springs Police Department and the incident commander for special events with other joint area agencies.

Chapmond said through his experience as a narcotics officer and coordinator of the Drug Task Force, he frequently speaks to youth organizations about the dangers of narcotics and the effects drug use has on the user and his or her family. In addition to public speaking about law enforcement topics, Chapmond is a firearms instructor, professional law enforcement instructor and a CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) instructor. Chapmond teaches part-time for the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute.

Chapmond earned a bachelor's degree in police administration from Columbia Southern University. He also graduated from the Northwestern University's School of Public Safety Command Staff School, which is a master's level course and considered one of the premier police executive classes in the law enforcement profession.

Chapmond served in the United States Marine Corps and in the first Gulf War.

Chapmond also 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 is married to Elizabeth and they have three sons.

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