



City of Greensboro

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Nancy Lindemeyer, PIO • Phone: (336) 373-2105 • Fax: (336) 373-4656
Copies of City of Greensboro News Releases are also available on-line at www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2003

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF GREENSBORO POLICE CHIEF

City Manager Ed Kitchen today announced the selection of Assistant Chief David Wray as the new Chief of the Greensboro Police Department. Wray is a 22-year veteran of the department. His appointment will be effective today, at an annual salary of \$105,000.

Kitchen noted that the selection of a Police Chief is one of the most difficult and important decisions a City Manager makes. "I am very pleased that, after a national search, we found our best candidate right here in our own department." Kitchen added that the community itself defined the qualities of the "best candidate" in a series of meetings held last spring in each Council district. During those meetings, community members emphasized the need for a new Chief who would understand and respect the City's diversity, have a vision for the department and a strategy for achieving it, and be willing to pursue the resources necessary for the department to meet the community's needs. Kitchen believes that in Wray he has found those qualifications.

To ensure that the new Chief would be a good fit for the community, Kitchen incorporated residents into the selection process. Each finalist was interviewed by two community panels, one of which assessed the candidates' skills and knowledge in law enforcement, and another which evaluated their understanding of and commitment to community policing and good community relations.

The panelists were:

- Chief Linda Davis of the Winston-Salem Police Department
- Michael Fox of the law firm of Tuggle Duggins & Meschan
- Frank Mascia of United HealthCare

- Lea Williams of the City's Community Relations Committee and Bennett College
- Tomasita Rivera Jacobowitz of Amistad de Guilford
- The Rev. Conrad Pridgen of Bethel AME Church
- Gloria Rankin of Smith Homes
- Otis Wilson of the Human Relations Commission

Wray has spent most of his life in Guilford County, graduating from Southeast Guilford High School and earning his B.A. and Master of Public Affairs at UNCG. He began his career with the Greensboro Police Department in 1981 and rose rapidly through the ranks, becoming an Assistant Chief in 1998. During that time, he has pursued a number of leadership development opportunities, including Leadership North Carolina and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He has taught police management and courses in criminal justice at the college level and has presented in a variety of professional settings. He was awarded a fellowship in Community Policing at the Treasury Department's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

In addition, Wray has been active in a broad range of community activities. He was a participant in the Chamber of Commerce's "Other Voices" diversity program, for which he is still a Steering Committee member. He has been active in his church and in a variety of other charities and civic efforts.

Wray feels that the GPD is an "outstanding department, full of the kind of talented people who step up to the plate to meet challenges. Maintaining the relationship between the department and community is critical, because we can't do our job without the public's confidence. And that relationship must be constantly looked after. There is no organization so intimately involved with the community as the Police Department."

Wray's connection to this community and to law enforcement is deep. He has two brothers employed by the City, one in Fire and one in Transportation. His father was a Deputy Sheriff, and his great uncle was a member of the Greensboro Police Department until 1929. He sees the Police badge as "a symbol of a common promise that each of us will be a friend to the community."

For more information, contact Greensboro Police Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Charles Cherry, at 373-2513. To download a photo of Chief Wray, click on www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/chief.

###