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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**POLICE CHIEF HARRINGTON TO RETIRE DEC. 31;
DEPUTY CHIEF LEONARD NAMED ACTING CHIEF**

WAKE FOREST, NC – December 16, 2009 – Police Chief Greg Harrington will retire this month after 16 years at the Wake Forest Police Department. His last day is Dec. 31.

Born and raised in Elizabeth City, Harrington is a graduate of Elizabeth City High School and Elizabeth City State University, where he was the school's first student to earn an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Harrington will retire with nearly 36 years of law enforcement service. He started his career as an officer in the Hertford Police Department, before moving on to the Scotland Neck Police Department. He also served in the Roanoke Rapids Police Department before becoming the police chief in Weldon.

Harrington began work as Wake Forest's police chief on Oct. 5, 1993. At the time the town's population stood at just over 6,800. Today, it's over 27,000. When Harrington came to Wake Forest, the police department had 14 officers. Today it employs 54.

In addition to his law enforcement service, Harrington has also been a tireless community volunteer. A former member of the Wake Forest Kiwanis Club, he has also been actively involved in Hoops for Wake Forest, the annual Wake Forest 4th of July Celebration, the police department's annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, the Wake Forest Community Response Team, Shop With a Cop, and the recent Purple Heart Banquet.

The Wake Forest Police Department will honor Harrington with a special reception on Dec. 29.

Deputy Police Chief Jeff Leonard has been named acting police chief effective Jan. 1, 2010. He will serve as acting chief for a period of six months, which will give Town Manager Mark Williams time to evaluate him as a permanent replacement.

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For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.