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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LEONARD NAMED PERMANENT POLICE CHIEF**

**WAKE FOREST, NC – June 29, 2010** – Town Manager Mark Williams has officially announced that Jeff Leonard, the interim police chief for the Town of Wake Forest since Jan. 1, 2010, has been named the Town’s permanent chief.

Leonard had been serving as interim chief since the retirement of Greg Harrington.

In a statement, Williams said Leonard has shown that he is ready to guide the department on a permanent basis.

“Jeff has performed well during the past six months and has demonstrated that he is very capable of handling the position on a full time basis,” he said. “I believe the police department will make great strides under his leadership.”

Leonard grew up in Wake Forest and graduated from Wake Forest-Rolesville High School in 1989. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice from NC State University and is a 2006 graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Leonard joined the Wake Forest Police Department as a part-time auxiliary officer in August 1992 and became a full-time patrol officer in August 1994. Over the past 18 years he has risen through the ranks of the department working as an investigator, sergeant, lieutenant, major, and deputy chief.

As police chief, Leonard will oversee an annual department budget of \$6.6 million and 69 professional and sworn staff members.

Outside of work, Leonard enjoys fishing, golf, and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Amy, have two children, Meredith and Mason.

Leonard will be sworn in at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6, during the Board of Commissioners work session in the board chambers of the new town hall, 301 S. Brooks St.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or [bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov](mailto:bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov).