

## PRESS RELEASE

Eddie Lee Harris, Jr. is a native of Forsyth, attended Monroe County public schools and graduated from Mary Person High School in 1984.

Eddie began working for the City of Forsyth PD in February 1985 as a patrol officer after successfully completing mandate training. Eddie has worked his way up through the ranks over his 31 years with the city, serving as sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and major. Eddie served as the Major over the Patrol Division from June 2010 until being named as the Interim Police Chief in December 2015. Since being named as Interim Police Chief, Eddie has instituted regular meetings with the managers of the local apartment complexes; was successful in getting an officer to dress as Santa and greet children at one of the local stores; and held a Back to School Rally for local kids in July. One of the first changes that Eddie brought to me was the departmental policy regarding bullet proof vest. The previous policy gave the officer the option of wearing the vest and Eddie asked to have this policy changed to make the vest mandatory for all officers. The reasons that he stated for this requests was not only monetary, as the department will be eligible for grant money with the new policy, but utmost for the officers' safety. This policy change was unanimously approved by city council and vest were ordered for all officers including the investigators. Another policy that Eddie has been successful in getting adopted was the one honoring retiring police officers with their gun, badge, and call number. This may seem like something insignificant to most, but it means a lot to a veteran officer – if you don't believe me just ask John Fields who was the first recipient of this honor. During his time with the Forsyth PD, Eddie has received several awards including Officer of the Year and Supervisor of the year from his peers in the department, and Citizen of the year by the Kiwanis Club. Eddie has numerous hours of training with POST including accident reconstruction, all levels of supervision and management along with the Professional Management Program training.

Eddie is known by the community and colleagues for his witty personality, tenacity, perseverance, honesty, and fairness. He has a reputation for timely response to the needs and concerns of the police department and community.

It is my pleasure to announce Eddie Harris as the next Police Chief of the City of Forsyth. I look for Eddie to do great things as the Police Chief. Eddie is local, has lived here his entire life, and knows the department. One thing is for sure, if you have a time when you need to talk with the Police Chief, he will know who you are, who you are talking about, or the location you are referring to. Congratulations Eddie.