July 30, 2020

On July 01, 2020, I decided after 27 years with the Mount Dora Police Department, I am retiring as Chief of Police for the City of Mount Dora. The Chief’s job was not a position I sought. However, I was honored to have taken that step in the continuation of my service.

I will have many good memories of my time in Mount Dora. During my career, as I advanced through the agency, I was consistently rated outstanding in my performance evaluations, I was instrumental in the accreditation process within the Department, and I have been honored to be named the Lake County Officer of the Year.

In my tenure as Chief, I did my best to bring accountability and transparency to the Department, while working to help our police personnel to advance in their own careers. The stress of today’s climate and factions within the department have made the job challenging at times, but it was a role I was proud to fulfill. I hope to see the department pull together as a unified agency.

During my career, I have worked to create a strong police-community relationship that respects and honors the interests of the residents of the entire city, with a special emphasis on the historic Northeast Community of Mount Dora and in our downtown. Together, we have accomplished much - and I promise to continue that relationship building beyond my retirement. It has been my honor to serve each and every citizen.

I am well aware that several individuals in the department decided to send complaints and false rumors regarding the department, the city, and me to city leaders. These scurrilous attacks on me may come with the job but attacking the reputations of other police and city employees is beyond inappropriate and unprofessional. I am disappointed they have taken this approach, and want our community to know that as a professional with 27 years in law enforcement, I support the city manager’s call for a thorough review of all police operations to demonstrate the professionalism and respect for all staff that is critical to the department’s success.

Anyone who has worked for almost three decades in their field will look back at their performance, their words, or their actions and realize they could have performed a task or a challenge at an even higher or better level. My commitment has been to constantly grow in my understanding and leadership, and the opportunity to serve as the Police Chief is one I will forever treasure.

The environment today for police officers is more challenging than ever. Officers feel the weight of additional scrutiny from the community they are working to protect. It is their continued duty to perform the job of public safety with professionalism and respect for the community, and for each other. With the added stress of the Covid-19 virus, much has changed for all of us. I believe with the right support and resources, Mount Dora’s police department can weather all of these challenging circumstances.

I wish the citizens of Mount Dora, the agency, and the city administration well moving forward. I look forward to the next chapter that God has for me.

Respectfully,



Chief of Police

Mount Dora Police Department