Chief Deputy Eric Watson Named Deputy County Administrator of Public Safety for Charleston County

Chief Deputy Eric Watson will move into a new role as Deputy County Administrator of Public Safety for Charleston County Government. Emergency Medical Services, Charleston County 9-1-1 Consolidated Dispatch, Emergency Management, and the Awendaw Fire Department will fall under his directorate. Chief Deputy Watson currently manages law enforcement operations and strategic leadership planning for the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, where he has worked for the last 25 years.

"We are excited to bring Chief Deputy Eric Watson's leadership expertise to the County. His extensive experience at the Sheriff's Office will be instrumental in leading our public safety services to ensure Charleston County continues to provide the best possible services to our citizens," said Chief of Staff/Acting Administrator Bill Tuten.

"I have known Chief Deputy Watson for a long time and consider him one of the finest lawmen Charleston County has ever produced. Working alongside him for the last 11 years, I have been impressed by his leadership abilities and his sense of fairness. We are lucky he has chosen to stay in the Charleston County family," said Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey.

Chief Deputy Watson holds an associate's degree in criminal justice and a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice administration. He attended the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia, where he received a criminal justice education certification. He is attending Walden University, where he is pursuing his master's degree in criminal justice leadership and executive management. Chief Deputy Watson is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI South Carolina Command College. He serves as a guest lecturer on community policing for the FBI National Academy. He is a graduate of the Diversity Leaders Initiative at Furman University and completed the Chief Executive Leadership Program at the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville. He is also certified as a peer-coach by Charleston County Government and received his mentoring-coaching certification from the College of Charleston.

"I'm excited and eager to begin this next phase of my public service career with Charleston County Government," said Deputy County Administrator of Public Safety Eric Watson. "This position provides me with a new opportunity to serve our citizens and the community as a whole. I look forward to working with our staff and creating an environment where we can work together towards one common goal – providing quality public service throughout Charleston County."

Chief Deputy Watson is a member of the National Information Officers Association, National Sheriffs' Association, Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), South Carolina FBI Association, FBI National Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association and International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Deputy Watson serves on the Board of Directors for the Charleston Youth Development Center and on the criminal justice advisory boards for Miller-Motte Technical College and Trident Technical College. Chief Deputy Watson also serves as the vice president of Father-to-Father Inc.

Chief Watson will continue to promote the importance of positive community relations between law enforcement and the citizens of Charleston County in his new role and will serve as a liaison for Charleston County Government and other public safety entities. He will also continue to serve as a special guest lecturer at the FBI National Academy where he is currently working on community policing relations projects.

Watson is scheduled to move into his new role in March.

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