

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Suffolk Police Officer Promotion Ceremony

The City of Suffolk Police Department will be holding a promotional ceremony on Wednesday, August 27, 2008. The ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 441 Market Street. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Suffolk Police Officer promotions are as follows:

Chief Animal Control Officer Select: Meghann McGillvray-Chapin

Animal Control Officer Chapin joined the City of Suffolk Animal Control on May 2, 2005. Prior to joining the department, Meghann worked as a veterinary assistant in Chesapeake for four years. She attended Basic Animal Control Officer at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy in November of 2005.

Animal Control Officer Chapin has attended training for the investigation of Ritualistic Animal Abuse, Small and Large Animal Scoring, and Basic Pet First Aid. In March of 2007 Officer Chapin became an "Acting Supervisor" working closely with Acting Chief Animal Control Officer Harry J. White.

Officer Chapin is married to Chuck Chapin who is a Firefighter for the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue. She has two step children, Joshua, age 11, and Bailey, age 8.

Sergeant Select: Timothy Cooper

Detective Timothy Cooper joined the department in March of 1995. He graduated from the 35th session of the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy and was assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division. Prior to his employment with the City of Suffolk he worked as a Corrections Officer for the Western Tidewater Regional Jail for three years. Detective Cooper served our country in the United States Army reserve for eight years.

Detective Cooper was transferred to the Investigations Division as a Detective in 2004, and was promoted to the rank of Master Police Officer on December 15, 2004. Detective Cooper has numerous certifications, including Police Mountain Bike Operator, Background Investigator, Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, and in 2005, attended the "Top Gun" Homicide Investigation Course.

Sergeant Select: Edward Bender

Officer Edward Bender joined the department in April, 2002. He attended the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy where he finished second in his class.

Prior to joining the department, Officer Bender served our country in the United States Coast Guard for nine years active duty and is still in the Coast Guard Reserve.

Officer Bender has numerous certifications, including Basic and Advanced Crash Investigations, General Instructor, Breath Technician and DUI Instructor. Officer Bender now teaches DUI classes at our post academy and at the Hampton Roads Regional Academy. Officer Bender's Coast Guard knowledge and experience is also invaluable with his assignment to the department's Marine Patrol.

Officer Bender and his wife Tracey are the proud parents of two daughters; Kristen, age 14, and Breanna, age 10.

Master Police Officer Select: Fred Panton

Senior Police Officer Fred Panton joined the department on October 16, 1987. He graduated with the 29th Session of the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy where he was Class President. Officer Panton's first assignment was in Uniform Patrol with B Squad.

In June of 1995, Officer Panton was assigned to the Community Services Unit where he assisted in starting the department's community policing initiative. He served as both a Neighborhood Liaison Officer and Motorcycle Officer.

In January of 2000, Officer Panton was assigned to the Administrative Division where he assisted in founding the Desk Officer Program and VCIN Compliance Program. In January of 2005, Officer Panton was assigned to the Special Operations Division as the Traffic Officer and also served as a Motorcycle Officer.

In January of 2006, Officer Panton was assigned back to Uniform Patrol, Sector One, B Squad where he currently works. Officer Panton is a Field Training Officer, General Instructor, and regularly teaches at the Police Academy. He is also the former Infection Control Officer for the department and was instrumental in implementing the city-wide infection control program.

Master Police Officer Select: Chalimous Grant

Senior Police Officer Chalimous Grant joined the Suffolk Police Department on April 16, 1999. Prior to his employment with the City of Suffolk, he worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the City of Norfolk. Officer Grant graduated from the 41st session of the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy and was assigned to Uniform Patrol. In July of 2005, Officer Grant was promoted to the rank of Senior Police Officer.

Officer Grant has many certifications, including Radar, Live Scan, General Instructor, D.A.R.E Instructor, Gang Resistance Education and Training Instructor, Class Action Instructor, Active Shooter Instructor and is a certified School Resource Officer. SPO Grant is also a member of the department's Critical Incident Response team.

SPO Grant is very active in his community and is the Coach of the four-time champion girls basketball team in Virginia Beach. He is especially grateful to his family; Penny, Carrington, Harmony, and Patrice.

Master Police Officer Select: Steve Howe

Officer Howe joined the department in March of 1999. He graduated the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy and was assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division.

Prior to his service with the department, Officer Howe served our country in the United States Navy as a Master at Arms for nine years. He is a veteran of both Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Officer Howe has many certifications, including Radar Operator, Intoxilyzer Operator, Evidence Technician and Police Mountain Bike Operator.

Officer Howe has one son, Tyler James Howe, who is twelve years old.

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