



City of Locust
Post Office Box 190
Locust, North Carolina 28097-0190
(704) 888-5260

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 13, 2019**

Locust City Council Appoints Steven R. Smith as next Locust Chief of Police

On Thursday, December 12, 2019 the Locust City Council announced the appointment of Steven R. Smith to the position of Chief of Police. Mr. Smith will begin his duties effective December 30, 2019, filling the vacancy resulting from Chief Frank Hartsell's retirement after 30 years of service.

Mr. Smith was born and raised in Locust where he currently resides with his wife and children. Mr. Smith began his career in law enforcement in 1997 as a reserve police officer with the Locust Police Department. He became a full-time police officer for Locust PD in 1998, and then worked with the Monroe and Kannapolis Police Departments prior to returning to Locust PD in 2007. As a Locust law enforcement officer, Mr. Smith has held the rank of Sergeant and most recently Captain. During his tenure with the Locust PD, Mr. Smith was responsible for the patrol division, the Field Training Officer program, and oversees Locust PD training. Mr. Smith possesses an Associates degree in criminal justice from Stanly Community College, an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the NC Department of Justice, and recently graduate from the Law Enforcement Management Academy.

City Administrator Cesar Correa commented: "I'm excited for the opportunity to work alongside Steven. He is a leader in the law enforcement community that commands the respect of his fellow officers. The City of Locust and its residents are fortunate to have an individual of his caliber leading the best law enforcement agency in Stanly County. I look forward to the many wonderful things he'll achieve as our new Chief of Police"

Contact person: Cesar Correa, City Administrator
Contact phone number: 704-888-5260 ext. 101

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