



CANTON

NORTH CAROLINA

PUBLIC PRESS RELEASE

CANTON – The Town of Canton is pleased to announce that Robert (Shawn) Gaddis has been hired as the Town’s new Police Chief effective March 31st, 2018. Robert (Shawn) Gaddis who has most recently held the rank of Lieutenant within the Canton Police Department will be taking over the role of Chief Bryan Whitner, who is retiring March 31st of this year. As the head of the department, Gaddis will lead a team of 20 employees and will be responsible for setting the vision and direction for the Police Department along with managing operations and the department’s budget. Additionally, he will be continuing and further propelling the community’s high level of policing services, working with agencies throughout Haywood County and beyond, growing the departments public safety outreach efforts, working to further develop the incredible law enforcement personnel/department we currently have, and at the same time, providing an important perspective on the Town’s management team.

Robert (Shawn) Gaddis has not only been a lifelong resident of Haywood County but also possesses 25 years of law enforcement experience. Approximately 18 of those years have been in Canton, serving the community in various roles within the Canton Police Department. The other 7 years Robert (Shawn) Gaddis was a Haywood County Deputy. Throughout his career in Law Enforcement he has served as a Detention Officer, Patrol Officer, Patrol Shift Supervisor/Sergeant, Detective, Sergeant Detective, and finally a Lieutenant since 2015 before accepting this position as Chief of Police. He brings experience from several angles that will only enhance the police officers’ training, investigations, and community policing.

There were several tremendously strong internal and external candidates for this position; however, I am confident that Robert (Shawn) Gaddis is a wonderful match for the Chief of Police position during this time of resurgence and rebirth taking place in Canton. His deep understanding of the mechanics of police management and community engagement, coupled with his proven leadership, will be an important asset to our Town for years to come. Both he and the Town of Canton are also fortunate to have additional leaders, officers, and staff in place within the Department, all of which will be necessary to make this vision come to fruition.

The Mayor, Board of Aldermen/women, and myself wish to express their sincere appreciation to retiring Chief Bryan Whitner for his thirty years of dedicated service to the Canton Police Department and the citizens of Canton and wish him a long and happy retirement.

In conclusion, please join me in congratulating Robert (Shawn) Gaddis as Chief of Police for the Town of Canton who will be serve as such March 31st, 2018.

Respectfully,

Jason Burrell
Town Manager