



Ft. Pierce Police Department News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R. Sean Baldwin
Chief of Police

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Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Fort Pierce Police chief selects right-hand man

FORT PIERCE – Fort Pierce Police Chief R. Sean Baldwin proudly announces the selection of Lee County Sheriff's Office Captain James Nygaard as the department's Deputy Chief. He will begin his employment on April 7, 2008.

Deputy Chief Nygaard is retiring from the Lee County Sheriff's Office with more than 25 years of service with that agency. He has a very broad base of operational and management experience in patrol, investigations, and administration. He has also served in several special assignments as a SWAT operator, polygraph examiner, and homicide investigator. In addition to this experience, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration.

Deputy Chief Nygaard is a Florida Native, and his wife is a retired Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) special agent. He has two sons, one who is serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and scheduled for a third tour in Iraq, and another that is attending the prestigious U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Deputy Chief Nygaard is in the process of relocating to Fort Pierce from Cape Coral, Florida.

Prior to being hired, Deputy Chief Nygaard went through the same thorough background and testing process that we require for every officer. This investigation confirmed his reputation as an accomplished law enforcement professional with strong ethical character.

In addition to the background investigation, Deputy Chief Nygaard also participated in personal interviews with the department's command staff members who include Captains Robert Sandifer, Brian Humm, Gregory Kirk, Frank Amandro and Lieutenant Christopher Bender.

"This portion of the process was extremely important to me, because I wanted to ensure that he was a good fit with our management team" said Chief Baldwin. "The feedback I received from our command staff was extremely positive, and I am confident that Deputy Chief Nygaard's demeanor and personality are a great fit for our team."

For the past 18 months, Chief Baldwin has carried the workload of both the chief and deputy chief, and he is looking forward to passing a great deal of responsibility for routine operations over to the new deputy chief.

"This will allow me to spend much more time working in our community, with government leaders, and directly with our employees to develop and implement solutions to the very difficult challenges that we will face over the next few years," Chief Baldwin said.

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