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New North Myrtle Beach Police Chief Greg Purden takes charge in early May

North Myrtle Beach, SC – March 21, 2019 – Greg Purden is the new North Myrtle Beach Police Chief. He starts his new duties in early May.

A 33-year law enforcement veteran, Purden began his career in 1985 with the West Melbourne, FL Police Department and joined the Brevard County, FL Sheriff's Office in 1988.

His most recent position was as commander of operational services where he oversaw the largest and busiest area of Brevard County, serving a population of over 200,000. His command included 103 employees and an annual budget of \$9 million with oversight of the traffic unit, agricultural unit, marine unit, explosives ordnance disposal unit, K-9 unit, bloodhound unit, animal services and enforcement, aviation unit, emergency operations, honor guard, chaplains, and the volunteer program.

During his career, Purden has served as a patrol deputy, field training officer, dive team member, special weapons and tactics team deputy/team leader, tactical team deputy, patrol sergeant, community policing sergeant, patrol lieutenant, career development unit lieutenant, major/countywide watch commander, special weapons and tactics team commander, west precinct commander, administrative services commander, and court services commander.



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“We are excited to have Greg on our team,” said North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Director Jay Fernandez. “He has great depth of experience, solid training and credentials, is a fine and personable communicator and, importantly, he’s a natural fit for our department.”

Purden holds a bachelor’s degree from Columbia College, MO with major course work in criminal justice. He is a graduate of the 224th Session of the FBI National Academy and the Southern Police Institute (University of Louisville) 39th Command Officers Development Course. He has thousands of hours of other professional training and certifications.

Purden has two grown children, a son, Austin, who is a police officer in Melbourne, FL, and a daughter, Sierra, who will be attending law school in the fall.

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