

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2017



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT BADGE PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

SUFFOLK, VA (March 29, 2017) The City of Suffolk Police Department held a Promotional Ceremony on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in Suffolk City Council Chamber. The event featured the promotion of one major, two captains, two lieutenants, and two sergeants.

Promoted to Major: Captain James Buie

James (Danny) Buie was hired by the Suffolk Police Department in September of 1996. Following his graduation from the Chesapeake Police Academy, he served in the Uniform Patrol Division as a patrol officer and Field Training Officer. In 2000, Buie was selected as Officer of the Fourth Quarter, Police Officer of the Year, and transferred to the Special Investigations Unit as a Narcotics Investigator.

(more)

In 2003, while in the Special Investigations Unit, Buie was promoted to the rank of Master Police Officer. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was assigned back to the Uniform Patrol Division where he served until being assigned back to the Special Investigations Unit as a Sergeant. In 2007, Buie was selected to be the first Sergeant of the newly formed Neighborhood Enforcement Team and Supervisor of the Year.

In 2010, Buie was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned back to the Uniform Patrol Division. In 2011, he was reassigned as the Lieutenant for the Special Operations Division. During that time, Buie supervised numerous specialized units to include Motorcycles, Marine Patrol, Bike Officers, Auxiliary Officers, Commercial Motor Vehicle Officers and School Resource Officers. In 2013, James Buie was promoted to the rank of Captain and assigned as the Sector II Precinct Commander.

During his 20 year career and various assignments, Buie obtained numerous qualifications including Primary Hostage Negotiator, SWAT Operator, SWAT Team Leader, SWAT Commander, Executive SWAT Officer, Gang Specialist, General Instructor and Firearms Instructor. He has also received numerous Departmental Commendations.

Buie is a graduate of West Point Leadership School, the Professional Executive Leadership School, Top Gun and a 2016 graduate of the FBI National Academy Session 264.

On January 1, 2017 James (Danny) Buie was promoted to the rank Major and serves as the Deputy Chief of Criminal Investigations.

(more)

Promoted to Captain: Lieutenant Mark Erie

Mark Erie joined the Suffolk Police Department on April 16, 1999 and graduated from the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy at the top of his class. As a Patrol Officer, he attended various specialty schools and was certified as a Radar/Lidar Operator, Traffic Accident Reconstructionist, Field Training Officer, Boat Operator, General Instructor and Speed Measurement Instructor. In 2002, Erie was recognized as Officer of the Second Quarter, and promoted to the rank of Master Police Officer in 2005.

In March 2010, Erie was promoted to Sergeant, remained within the Uniform Patrol Division and was awarded Supervisor of the Year for 2010. In November 2011, Erie was transferred from Uniformed Patrol and assigned to the Professional Standards Division, supervising Training, Accreditation and Inspections. During his tenure in the Professional Standards Unit, he received training from James Madison University in Basic Internal Affairs. Erie continued to supervise Training, Accreditation and Inspections while also filling the void to the Internal Affairs Unit.

In September 2013, Erie was promoted to the rank and Lieutenant and assigned to Uniformed Patrol. In September 2014, he was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division as the Supervisor in charge of the Special Investigations Section. Erie continued in this capacity until his transfer back to Uniformed Patrol in March of 2016.

(more)

Erie has received several Departmental Commendations and awards and has attended several Leadership Schools to include the Human Resources Leadership Development Program, the Leadership Institute at Christopher Newport University, and the Institute for Leadership in Changing Times.

Erie was promoted to the rank of Captain on January 15, 2017. He currently serves as the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Unit and oversees the Detective Bureau, Special Investigations and CSI.

Erie holds a Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice from Mercyhurst University.

Promoted to Captain: Lieutenant John McCarley

John McCarley joined the Suffolk Police Department on December 2, 2002 and graduated from the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy at the top of his class. As a Patrol Officer, he attended various specialty schools and was certified as a Radar/Lidar Operator, Breath alcohol technician, and General Instructor. In December of 2004, McCarley was assigned to the Investigations Division as a general assignments detective where he investigated all felonious crimes.

In April 2010, McCarley was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned back to the Uniform Patrol Division as a street supervisor. In October 2011, McCarley was transferred to the Professional Standards Division where he was the Internal Affairs Sergeant. During his tenure in the Professional Standards Unit, he received training from Indiana University in Basic Internal Affairs and shortly thereafter was deployed with the USAF for 9 months. Upon his return from Military deployment, McCarley continued working in Internal Affairs.

(more)

In September 2014, McCarley was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Uniformed Patrol. During his tenure, McCarley served as Shift Commander for midnights, evenings and dayshift in both Sector 1 and Sector 2. McCarley also assumed the role as the S.W.A.T. Tactical Commander.

McCarley has received several Departmental Commendations and awards and has attended several Leadership Schools to include the Human resources Leadership Development Program, the Leadership Institute at Christopher Newport University, the Institute for Leadership in Changing Times, and the Command Leadership Course.

McCarley was promoted to the rank of Captain on March 1, 2017. He currently serves as the Captain of the Administrative Division and oversees Communications, Central Records, Property & Evidence, Quartermaster and the Fugitive Unit.

McCarley retired from the Air National Guard in October of 2016 with 20 years of service to the U.S. Air Force. During his last deployment in 2014 for Operation Inherent Resolve, he was part of the first F-22 unit deployed in combat, receiving 1 Presidential and 3 unit awards.

(more)

Promoted to Lieutenant: Sergeant Isaac Lopez

Isaac Lopez joined the Suffolk Police Department on June 16, 2005 and graduated from the Hampton Roads Regional Public Safety Academy in August of 2005. As a Patrol Officer, he attended various specialty schools and received numerous awards. In 2007, Lopez was selected as the Officer of the Year and promoted to the rank of Investigator where he was assigned to the Special Investigations Unit to work narcotic related offenses.

In November 2010, Lopez was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was initially assigned to midnight shift within the First Precinct. After a year there, he was transferred back to the Special Investigations Unit as the Sergeant supervising the investigating of narcotics offenses.

Lopez has received many Departmental Commendations, Officer of the Quarters, and Departmental Fitness Award. He has served in several ancillary positions to include S.W.A.T, Surveillance Team and Mobile Field Force Unit.

Lopez was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on January 15, 2017. He currently serves as the Sector Two Midnight Shift Commander.

Lopez currently attends Old Dominion University as a full time student and is scheduled to graduate this May.

(more)

Promoted to Lieutenant: Sergeant David Wellford

David Wellford joined the Suffolk Police Department on November 16, 2003 after retiring from the United States Navy as a Chief Petty Officer with 20 years of honorable service. Wellford graduated from the Chesapeake Public Safety Academy, 46th Session on August 23, 2004.

As a Patrol Officer, he attended various specialty schools and was certified as a Radar Operator and an Intoxilyzer 5000 Operator. In 2006, he was certified as a Field Training Officer and trained many new Officers. Wellford was selected as a Police Detective on March 1, 2008 and investigated Property Crimes and Financial Crimes. On November 15, 2011, Wellford was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned to the Second Precinct, evening shift. From September 2014 to November 2014 and from June 2015 to August 2015, Wellford served as the Acting Lieutenant for that shift until being transferred to the First Precinct to serve as the Acting Lieutenant for the midnight shift until November 2015.

Wellford was then selected as the Department's first Executive Sergeant working directly for the Chief of Police. In this assignment, Wellford reviewed thousands of case files, attended court review for the department and researched and created a new extra duty/off-duty policy for the department adding to his duties as the department's First Extra Duty Coordinator.

Also in November 2015, Wellford was assigned to additionally serve as a Crisis Negotiation Team Sergeant. In February 2016, David Wellford was transferred to Precinct 1, midnight street supervisor.

(more)

On March 1, 2017, Wellford was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned as the 1st Precinct, Evening Shift Commander.

Wellford has been awarded several Departmental Commendations and is a graduate of the Hampton Roads Regional Training Justice Academy/Christopher Newport University Leadership School.

Promoted to Sergeant: Police Officer Thomas Cain

Thomas J. Cain joined the Suffolk Police Department on February 17, 2004 and graduated from the Chesapeake Police Academy, Class 46. Cain served his first five years in the Uniform Patrol Division in Sector 1 and Sector 2. During this time, he was certified as a Field Training Officer, General Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, and Firearms Instructor.

In 2009, Cain was selected to serve on the Neighborhood Enforcement Team as Gang Investigator. During his 4 years in N.E.T., Cain qualified as a gang expert, investigated numerous gang cases which led several arrest and prosecutions of gang members, and was selected as Officer of the Fourth Quarter in 2012.

In 2013, Cain was selected to serve on the Special Investigations Unit as a Narcotics Investigator. During his three years in S.I.U., Cain attended training with the Drug Enforcement Agency and investigated numerous narcotics cases leading to numerous arrest and prosecutions of drug dealers and drug users. In 2016, Cain was selected to be a Staff Instructor at the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy where he trained three classes of brand new police recruits.

(more)

On February 1, 2017, Cain was promoted to the Rank of Sergeant and currently serves as the Precinct 1 Evening shift street supervisor and on the Department's Surveillance Team.

Cain has earned three Departmental Commendations, a Community Service Award, and a Life Saving Award. Cain has also served on the SWAT team for 11 years to include 5 years as a SWAT Sniper.

Promoted to Sergeant: Police Officer Antonio Diggs

Antonio Diggs joined the Suffolk Police Department on April 1, 2010 and is a graduate of the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy. During his initial assignment on Evening Shift within Sector I, Diggs received several letters of appreciation and awards.

He was the first recipient of the Veterans of Foreign Affairs Joe Bagley Public Servant Citation. In 2012, he received a Community Policing Award for his dedicated service for the citizens in need during the Christmas holiday season. Diggs was also named Evidence Technician of the 4th Quarter and Officer of the 4th Quarter in 2012.

In 2013, Antonio Diggs was transferred to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team and recognized as Top Cop for Suffolk. During this assignment, he attended several training course and successfully investigated numerous gang cases. His training and expertise in this area lead to him being recognized by the City of Suffolk Courts as a Gang Expert.

(more)

On March 1, 2017, Diggs was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and currently serves as the Precinct 1 midnight street supervisor.

###