



NEWS RELEASE

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Hopewell Announces Interim Police Chief

Hopewell, Virginia – The City of Hopewell welcomes Antonio "AJ" Starke as Interim Chief for the Hopewell Police Department. Captain Starke joins Hopewell as Chief Kamran Afzal, Hopewell Police Chief since 2019, has accepted the Chief position in Dayton, Ohio.

Captain Starke served four years active duty in the United States Army. He earned his bachelor's degree from Virginia State University and his master's degree in criminal justice from Liberty University. He is a graduate of the 34th session of the Police Executive Leadership School and a graduate of the National Criminal Justice Command College.

“Captain Starke is a well-respected leader in the region with the reputation for strong work ethic and an adamant commitment to service,” said March Altman, Hopewell City Manager. “We are very impressed with his professionalism, knowledge, and his dedication to serving the citizens of Hopewell and believe that he will serve our community well.”

Captain Starke began his law enforcement career in 1991 with the Chesterfield County Police Department. He has 30 years of policing experience, with the past nine years as a member of command staff at the rank of captain. Captain Starke has held several command positions within the Chesterfield Police Department to include Office of Professional Standards, Personnel and Training, Special Operations, and the Information Services Division.

Captain Starke will serve as Interim Chief in Hopewell throughout the recruitment process and will return to his captain position with Chesterfield County Police Department once a permanent Chief is selected. Captain Starke was sworn in on December 16, 2021 and began his service as Interim Chief on December 18, 2021.

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