



Proclamation



POLICE CHIEF WALTER HORTON DAY

WHEREAS, Police Chief Walter Horton, a native son of Carrboro, and loving son of Walter and Dorothy Horton, is quickly approaching his retirement with the Town of Carrboro; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Horton was first sworn-in as a Carrboro Police Officer on September 9, 1993, and promoted to Lieutenant in 2009 and to Captain in 2011; and after a nation-wide search for a chief, selected and sworn-in as Police Chief for the Town of Carrboro in 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the efficiency and effectiveness of local government operation depends on the capability and reliability of skilled employees in many essential areas, especially in public safety; and the professionalism and responsiveness of public safety officers and the execution of their responsibilities in protecting the health, safety and welfare of Carrboro's citizens are critical; and

WHEREAS, the care, dedication, and community oriented policing efforts displayed by Carrboro's Police Department are a direct reflection of its leader – the one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way to others; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-seven years, Chief Horton dedicated himself daily, working many nights and missing many family events to provide the highest standards of professionalism, excellence, and integrity as a member of the Town of Carrboro Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Horton will retire from the Town on February 1, 2021, and will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, following are personal comments Mayor Lavelle would like to share that she solicited from Council members about or for Chief Horton:

Council member Jacquelyn Gist: Chief Horton is a true son of Carrboro and personifies the values we strive to uphold. During an era when police brutality and abuse of power has been in the forefront nationally, Chief Horton's commitment to ensuring that the Carrboro Police force conducts their work in a manner that respects the humanity and dignity of each member of our community is his parting gift to Carrboro.

Council member Randee Haven-O'Donnell: Chief Horton, your authentic caring, dedication and service to your and our community has been outstanding. I especially want to thank you for working closely with us on development, launch, and advisement of the El Centro Casa for Employment and Leadership. Your quiet, understated nature, true attentiveness, listening and understanding provided solid anchoring, undergirding our sense of community safety.

Council member Sammy Slade: "Thank you, Chief, for your part in responding and striving to extricate our institutions and system from racism. We are now on a better path towards a more equitable world that is rooted in love."



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Council member Damon Seils: Captain Walter Horton became Police Chief Walter Horton just five months after I joined the Town Council. From the start, Chief Horton was a welcoming and reliable ambassador for the Town and his department as we settled into our new roles—even as I welcomed him to his role with a survey on cell phone location tracking from the ACLU of North Carolina. Chief Horton has been a responsive department head, a caring community leader, and a strong advocate for the officers and other employees of the Police Department. He is one of the local government leaders from whom I have learned the most, and I will miss him.

Council member Barbara Foushee: Chief Horton has a kind and caring spirit. He always advocates for his department's best interests. He is super responsive when reached out to, knowledgeable in the job, and respected in the county.

Council member Susan Romaine: If I were to pick just one quality of Chief Horton that stands out to me, it would be his calm, reassuring presence. That quality has served our Town well during tumultuous times that have included calls for defunding and reforming our police department, protests and counter-protests around Black Lives Matter, and ICE's aggressive crackdowns spurring widespread fear in our immigrant communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 1st, the first day of his retirement, as “**POLICE CHIEF WALTER HORTON DAY**” in the Town of Carrboro. In doing so, I want to offer my thanks and appreciation to Chief Horton for his twenty-seven year career with the Town of Carrboro; for the leadership, service, and protection we have received from him during this time; and best wishes for many years of joy in retirement.

This the 26th day of January 2021.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor