



For Immediate Release
March 16, 2017

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Harrisonburg Police Announce Promotions

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) has announced several promotions from within the department.

Harrisonburg Police Chief Stephen Monticelli promoted several officers earlier this week. These promotions come after a competitive process, where applicants were required to take a written test on police practices, supervision, and leadership applications. After successful completion of the written test, they underwent a series of questions from a panel comprised of law enforcement, city leaders from other departments, and community members. The final phase was an interview with the chief of police.

Chief Monticelli stated, “These promotions were competitive due to the high caliber of applicants. I consider the promotional processes one of the most important functions in my position. Identifying the leaders of tomorrow is crucial for our success and sustainability. Each officer who applied brings uniqueness to the profession.”

Seth Luerssen was promoted from patrol officer to corporal. Corporal Luerssen has more than nine years with the Harrisonburg Police Department and has served as a police training officer, department firearms instructor and is a sniper with the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT).

Susan Jewell was promoted from detective to corporal. Corporal Jewell has 14 years with the Harrisonburg Police Department. She was a detective for the past 10 years, holds a polygraph license, and is one of three polygraph examiners within the agency.

Daniel Claxton was promoted from corporal to sergeant. Sergeant Claxton has 14 years with the Harrisonburg Police Department and held the rank of corporal for the past six years. He was the Internal Affairs supervisor, department firearms instructor, coordinator of HPD’s Honor Guard, and is a member of SWAT.

Chris Terrell was promoted from corporal to sergeant. Sergeant Terrell has 19 years with the Harrisonburg Police Department and held the rank of corporal for the past five years. He was a corporal on patrol, department driver instructor, instrumental on the mountain bike unit, and worked on the first joint agency gang task force.

We congratulate these four service providers for their accomplishments and dedication to the city of Harrisonburg. Their promotions will go into effect Sunday, March 19 and each will be assigned to the Patrol Division.

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