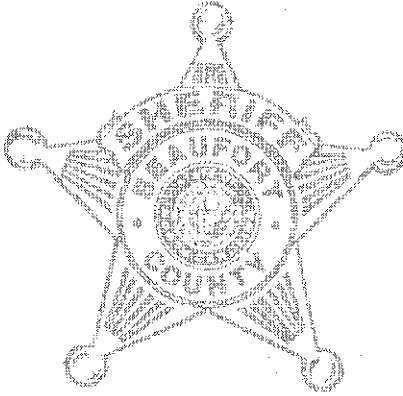


Office of the Sheriff

Ernie Coleman
SHERIFF



Office: 252-946-7111
Fax: 252-946-0993
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January 28th, 2015

To: Media

From: Sheriff Ernie Coleman

Ref: Restructuring of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office

I was sworn in as Sheriff of Beaufort County on December 1st, 2014. Since that time my staff and I have worked diligently to ensure that all aspects of assuming the Office of the Sheriff were being done or have been completed. Some of the changes that have been made have been simple and some have been more complex. Overall the assumption of office has gone smoothly and we are looking forward to the opportunities to improve that await.

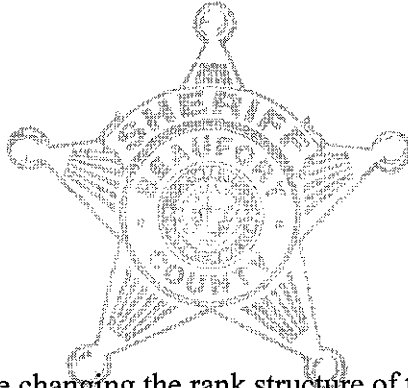
The first major change, which I spoke about while I was running for Sheriff. I am going to put more deputies on the road, on the ground level, answering calls. The changes that we are announcing today and some others to come later will enable us to put additional deputies on the road without having to ask for additional funding from the County or our tax payers.

I began restructuring my office from day one. I am now ready to announce the next phase of changes. Effective Monday, February 2nd, 2015, Major Charlie Rose will be promoted to the rank of Chief Deputy. Chief Deputy Rose will supervise all division commanders and will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Kelly Cox will be promoted to Administrative Sergeant. Sergeant Cox will head up Crime Stoppers, Crime Prevention and Community Watch programs. Sergeant Cox will also be the Sheriff's Office Training Coordinator.

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I am also announcing that we are changing the rank structure of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. The sworn divisions of the Sheriff's Office are going to be commanded by Lieutenants instead of Captains. The Criminal Investigations Division will be led by Lieutenant Wesley Waters. The Narcotics Investigations Division will be led by Lieutenant Russell Davenport. The Patrol Division will be led by Lieutenant Jeremy Hewitt. My lieutenants will report to Chief Deputy Charlie Rose.

The Beaufort County Detention Center's rank structure is changing as well. The Beaufort County Detention Center will be led by Chief Detention Officer Catrina Ross. Chief Detention Officer Ross' second in command will be Assistant Chief Detention Officer Scott Thompson. Chief Detention Officer Ross will report to Chief Deputy Rose.

I am excited about the changes that we have made and I am impressed with the professionalism and work ethic that is exhibited by everyone under my command. I am extremely proud of the fact that we have been able to make these changes without reducing anyone's salaries or benefits while at the same time not having to request additional funds from Beaufort County. My deputies and detention officers are good, hard working professionals and they deserve all that we can afford to pay them and more.

I will be available for interviews or additional comments about these changes today, in my office, from 2pm until 6pm.

In closing, I want to thank everyone that has offered their kind words of support for me and my Office, whether they be in person, on the telephone or by email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernie Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheriff Ernie Coleman