

## **BREAKING: Marvin tapped as new Walterboro Police Chief | News | The Press & Standard**



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After more than a year of searching, the City of Walterboro has finally found its new police chief.

Wade Marvin, a lieutenant with the Colleton County Sheriff's Office, will begin his duties as Walterboro's top cop Sept. 29, Walterboro City Manager Jeff Molinari confirmed Wednesday.

Marvin was selected from a list of three finalists and a pool of 43 applicants.

All in all, the search for a chief stretched 16 months, officially beginning with the dismissal of longtime chief Otis Rhodes in May 2013, stalling with the forced resignation of former city manager Jeff Lord in August, 2013 and resuming with the hiring of Molinari in February.

The city also changed its public safety model during the search, splitting into separate fire and police department this spring.

"It's been a long process, but one where I was ultimately very happy with the end result," Molinari said. "Wade brings a lot to the table. He's the total package of what we were looking for, and we think he will be a good fit for the community."

A Colleton County native, Marvin has 14 years of law enforcement experience, all of which has come close to home. He began his career in 2000 as a city police officer, spending three years in that capacity before moving on the sheriff's office, where he rose through ranks, serving as a corporal, a sergeant and ultimately a lieutenant. Marvin also boasts experience heading the department's SWAT unit, its five-man K9 dog team

and its highway drug interdiction team. Additionally, he served as the sheriff's office's liaison with other state and federal law enforcement agencies.

A noted K9 unit trainer, Marvin is currently working to complete his bachelor of arts degree in K9 Developmental Sciences through Excelsior College online. Marvin is a graduate of the S.C. Criminal Justice and Fire Academies and attended college at Georgia Southern University.

"I'm very excited, and I just look forward to bringing enthusiasm, leading by example and exuding a high level of professionalism," Marvin said. "I'm looking to be here long-term. I've been here my whole life, I love the community and want to do more."

Marvin, 39, said the chief's position is a natural progression of his professional aspirations.

"Ever since I got into law enforcement, I just felt like I wanted to make a difference," Marvin said. "I have had different goals throughout my career, but the older I have gotten I've realized I wanted to make more of a difference ... I'm just humbled that out of 40-something applications I was the selection."

Communication, Marvin said, will be paramount under his command. He considers Colleton County Sheriff Andy Strickland among his friends and believes that relationship can only be beneficial.

"I have a wonderful relationship with Andy, and he gave me his full support to take this job," said Marvin, who mentioned his first 4-8 weeks as chief would serve as an acclimation and evaluation period. "I believe that together we can be very successful ... my main goal is communication. Let's get it out in the open and see what we can do."

Current interim police chief Ken Dasen, who has served in the position for the past 16 months, would be a welcome addition to the department, Marvin said.

"I think Ken has a lot to offer," Marvin said. "I think it would be the best thing for city to move on and have an easy transition. I'd like to accept the knowledge and experience that he brings, start a fresh sheet and work together."