

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2024

The Town of Amherst, Virginia

For questions, please contact Sara McGuffin, Town Manager at (434) 946-7885 or sara.mcguffin@amherstva.gov or Chief Ryan Watts at (434) 946-7874 or ryan.watts@amherstva.gov.



At the July 10, 2024 Town Council meeting, the Town Council appointed C. Ryan Watts as its new Police Chief. Chief Watts has been with the Town of Amherst Police Department for over 13 years, previously serving as its Captain, Investigator, and Officer. Prior to his service with the Town's Police Department, he served with the Amherst County Sheriff's Department as a Jail Deputy. He holds an Associate's degree from Jefferson College of Health Sciences and is working on his Bachelor's degree from Liberty University. Chief Watts is a lifelong resident of Amherst County and a graduate of Amherst County High School. During his time as an investigator with the Police Department, he attended the State's Forensics Academy, and set a high standard for the performance of the job. Amber Drumheller, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney wrote of his work, "He goes the extra mile at work to make sure that the people of the town of Amherst know that their cases matter as much to him as they do to them." Mayor Dwayne Tuggle said of Chief Watts appointment, "The Town is grateful for Ryan's past service and we are looking forward to seeing him as Chief for many years. We appreciate his dedication to the Town and we are confident in his capabilities to lead." The Town is proud to see the elevation of one

its own officers, and to see Chief Watts ascend to this position. Chief Watts stated, "I am honored that council has selected me and I look forward to working with the community to continue the good work that the Police Department has been doing."