PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF FOREST PARK
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Park Announces Sole Finalist for Police Chief

Forest Park, GA, March 27, 2019 – After a competitive nationwide search which was managed by the Mercer Group, the City of Forest Park is proud to announce Nathaniel Clark as the sole finalist to be its Police Chief. Under the city's charter, the Police Chief is nominated by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council. The Police Chief is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Police Department and the management and direction of its employees.

"I am pleased that the City Manager will be nominating Nathaniel Clark as our next Police Chief," said Forest Park Mayor Angelyne Butler. "I believe Mr. Clark's conceptual framework on community policing will resonate with the community as a collective unit and will port well into our city. Welcome to Forest Park."

Clark, a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, has over 33 years in law enforcement experience, including 12 years as chief, assistant chief, or deputy chief. Clark started his career in law enforcement as a Patrol Officer in Pine Bluff in 1982 and advanced to the rank of Chief of the department in 2000, where he served for two years before retiring. From 2003 to 2008, he worked for the United States Department of Treasury and then as a criminal investigator for the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney's office in Atlanta. He joined the City of Albany, Georgia Police Department as Major and Director of the Department's Office of Professional Standards in 2008. He was named interim deputy chief of the department's Uniform Bureau in December 2008, and then promoted to that position full time in December 2009. He was named Deputy Chief of the department's Investigations Bureau three years later and served there until he retired from the department before becoming Chief of Police for the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Clark has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He is a graduate of many law enforcement leadership programs, including the Chief Executive Training by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, Southern Police Institute's Chief Executive Leadership Program, the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP), and the FBI's National Academy. Additionally, he is an Arkansas and Georgia P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement officer.

In a statement Mr. Clark said, "I am very thankful to have this opportunity to work with the Mayor and Council to build upon the foundation already established in the City of Forest Park. I will work diligently and in concert with elected officials, staff, and citizens to ensure that Forest Park's Police Department meets and exceeds the highest standards of professionalism and community service. I am grateful for the opportunity to humbly serve in the leadership role of Police Chief."

The City has already received very positive feedback about his nomination.

Andre Good, a member of the Board of Directors of the City of Fort Smith, where Mr. Clark currently serves as Police Chief said, “I am proud of Chief Clark and his accomplishments, and I hate to see him leave our city. In my opinion, you are getting the best of the best this country has to offer as an administrator.”

Carl Geffken, Fort Smith’s City Administrator called Mr. Clark a “visionary leader,” further stating, “I firmly believe that his qualifications in the academic, professional and law enforcement fields reflect vital skills for managing and/or enhancing the most sensitive departments in the public and/or private sectors.”

The City anticipates that the City Council will vote on the City Manager’s nomination on April 15, 2019.

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