



## PASQUOTANK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Tommy S. Wooten, II**  
SHERIFF

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June 23, 2021

To the citizens of Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City,

Since December 2018, after I was elected as your Sheriff, the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office has been dedicated to improving our community. Our Office has taken initiatives and formed partnerships which have embedded our deputies into lasting relationships with our community members. We are confident in our efforts to build trust between law enforcement and our community.

On April 21, 2021, our Office was involved in the shooting death of Mr. Andrew Brown Jr. This tragedy caused an array of emotions throughout our community and our office. At this point now, approximately two months after the event, I want to speak about the Office's future direction.

Our Office has worked with our neighboring agency, the Elizabeth City Police Department in providing assistance with daily protests since the event. Being 64 days past the event, I have decided that it's time to resume normal operations. The Office and I took an Oath to serve our community as a whole and we intend to do just that. I understand that the Office and I need to work and focus on rebuilding relationships within our community; trust between law enforcement and its community is paramount.

As law enforcement our duty is to ensure and protect everyone's Constitutional Rights. By the City of Elizabeth City's continued issuance of permits, they have allowed and encouraged daily protests by a very small group of our community to hinder the lives of our citizens. The First Amendment provides the right to peaceably assemble; however, it does not provide the right to block roadways nor does it provide the right to a law enforcement escort. Effective Saturday, June 26, 2021, I have made the decision for our Office to no longer assist the City of Elizabeth City and the Elizabeth City Police Department with daily protests. While I have informed Chief Eddie Buffalo of my decision, our Office will continue to support the Elizabeth City Police Department during major events and other situations associated with law enforcement and overall public safety.

During these challenging times, our Office has received a tremendous amount of support from our community members, which we greatly appreciate. Our Office would like to thank everyone who has either reached out to us or provided support in any way. I would also like to thank those who offered constructive criticism; your message has not fallen on deaf ears. I am proud to be your Sheriff and I look forward to continuing my service to the citizens of Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City. Thank you and God Bless!

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Tommy S. Wooten, II  
Sheriff of Pasquotank County

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*"Service with Purpose and Vision"*