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## **Kirkendall Retires from Hinesville Police Department**

**HINESVILLE, Ga. (Dec. 23, 2020)** – The City of Hinesville would like to bid a fond farewell and best wishes to Hinesville Police Chief Bill Kirkendall as he retires after 30 years of employment on December 31, 2020.

In 1984, Kirkendall began his employment with the Hinesville Police Department (HPD) as a dispatcher. He worked with the department for two (2) years before enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served as a law enforcement specialist until his return to Hinesville and HPD in 1990.

“I’ve had the privilege of working closely with Chief Kirkendall for the entirety of his tenure as Chief of Police and I have known him for even longer – as both of us have served the City of Hinesville for a number of years,” says City Manager Kenneth Howard. “The significance of what he has accomplished with the Hinesville Police Department – and more importantly his significance to our department and the City itself – cannot be overstated. At all levels, he exemplifies what it means to be a public servant and a law enforcement officer, and I am glad to know him and work with him. We are sad to lose him but wish him well as he moves to this next chapter.”

Very rarely will one see an officer who has worked across the depth and breadth of a department, but Chief Kirkendall has done so from his return to Hinesville forward. Since 1990, he has worked in almost every division of the department and served in the following roles:

- Patrol Officer
- Field Training Officer
- Patrol Supervisor
- D.A.R.E Instructor
- Narcotics Investigator
- Drug Task Force Assistant Commander
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Property and Evidence Custodian
- State Certification Manager
- Traffic Accident Investigation Commander
- Assistant Chief of Police
- Interim Chief of Police

Not only has he worked in a variety of positions in HPD, Kirkendall has also achieved several certifications over the years, including:



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- Certified General Instructor
- Specialized Instructor, Firearms
- Examiner, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police

Kirkendall will retire after serving the City as the Chief of Police for the last two and a half years.

“Chief Kirkendall has been a wealth of knowledge throughout his tenure with our City – and especially in 2020,” said Hinesville Mayor Allen Brown. “This has been a tumultuous year to be in law enforcement and he has handled the difficulties of the job all while maintaining a progressive department in a pandemic – solving issues immediately and being the leader that we all hope for in the Chief’s chair. It’s a feat that I hope he can look back on and say he’s proud of, because we are proud of him.”

When asked to reflect on his time with the Hinesville Police Department, Chief Kirkendall had this to say:

“I started with HPD in 1984 and have had the opportunity to see the department grow and transform from a small agency to the largest department in Hinesville city government. HPD is one of only 150 agencies out of almost 800 across the state to wear the title of State Certified Agency under the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police state certification program. This designation makes the department eligible for Department of Justice grants and lowers our annual liability insurance premiums. The department has over 90% of the officers trained in crisis intervention training to interact professionally and compassionately with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. I have been across the state conducting assessments for other agencies and HPD holds up well when compared to agencies of all sizes. The level of training afforded our officers, our strict selection process and well documented policies and procedures are but a few examples of how we show our professionalism every day. I am proud to have been a part of such a progressive department with some of the best officers in the State of Georgia.”

Upon his retirement, Chief Kirkendall has opted to take a position with the Liberty County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO). He will hold the rank of Major and will have responsibility over the LCSO Bureau of Professional Standard, including internal affairs, state certification, courthouse security, training, fleet management and other duties as assigned.

For more information, please contact Whitney Morris-Reed at [wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org) or 912.408.3569.



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**ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:**

The [City of Hinesville](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people. For more information, visit [cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org).