



Town of Oak Bluffs

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

After an accomplished career in law enforcement spanning 35 years, Police Chief Erik Blake has announced that he will be retiring from the Oak Bluffs Police Department on June 30th of this year. Chief Blake first began his law enforcement tenure in 1987, when he was hired as a Summer Special Officer for the Town. A short time later, in September of 1988, he became a year-round officer and began his ascension through the ranks being promoted to Sergeant in June of 2000 and to Lieutenant in December of 2002. His tenure as Lieutenant was short, however, as in January of 2003 he was promoted to Acting Chief with the departure of Chief Joseph Carter. The Select Board made his appointment as Chief permanent in July of 2003 where he continued to serve the town as Chief for 19 years. During his lengthy career, Chief Blake also obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Western New England College.

With over 3 decades of law enforcement experience under his belt, Chief Blake has amassed a significant number of accomplishments and accolades. He proudly served and/or continues to serve in the following roles; President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (2014), International Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Committee (2009-2014, 2019-2022), International Association of Chiefs of Police Civil Rights Committee (2006- 2017), International Association of Chiefs of Police Community Policing Committee (2007- 2022), President of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (2008). During his tenure as well, Oak Bluffs also became one of the first police departments on the Cape and Islands to achieve State Certification through the *Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission*.

The Chief and the Select Board will be working cooperatively through the end of June to find a replacement and to ensure a smooth transition for the department. As the Chief heads off to pursue other goals, the Select Board and the Town wish him well in his endeavors and salute him for his long-term service to the Town.