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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 22, 2018

Town of Biltmore Forest announces Appointment of New Police Chief Chris Beddingfield

The Town of Biltmore Forest is pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Beddingfield as its new Chief of Police. Beddingfield was a finalist for the position when previously open. Beddingfield has worked with outgoing Chief T.J. Bates to ensure a smooth transition for the Town, Department, and its officers. Bates is leaving the department for an opportunity with another law enforcement agency. Chief Bates accomplished a great deal during his tenure, including leading the Department to become the first National Missing and Exploited Child Readiness Program certified law enforcement agency in North Carolina. Chief Bates created a new inventory system for the Department, dramatically increased the training opportunities and requirements for officers, and revised and updated all policies and procedures. The Town is appreciative of his hard work and dedication and wishes him continued success in the future.

Beddingfield has served as the Chief of Police in Columbus, N.C. since 2011, and joined the Columbus Police Department in 2007. Prior to 2007, Beddingfield served in various capacities for the Polk County Sheriff's Department, including Captain of Investigations, training instructor, and Emergency Response Team leader. Beddingfield began his career in law enforcement as a Public Safety Officer at the Asheville Regional Airport in 1990.

Beddingfield has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, a Bachelor of Science degree from Gardner-Webb University, and received his Basic Law Enforcement Training from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. In addition, Beddingfield has also completed the West Point Leadership College, North Carolina State Law Enforcement Executive Program, FBI Command College, and holds an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the State of North Carolina, among other certifications. He received the Region C Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award in 2012.

The Town is thankful for the work and improvements made under Chief Bates and excited to welcome Chief Beddingfield to Biltmore Forest.

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