

## **Sheriff Gerald Couch Announces Promotions**

March 14, 2013

Press Release: March 14, 2013

Sheriff Announces Appointments

On Thursday, March 14, 2013, Sheriff Gerald Couch announced several appointments within the department.

As part of the Sheriff's plans to expand the agency's community outreach efforts, two positions were filled that were made possible by reorganization within other divisions.

- Deputy Chad Mann was appointed to the position of Community Service Officer. In this role he will fulfill duties as the department's front lobby representative, taking walk-in reports from citizens, assisting with fingerprinting, and generally serving as the agency's first point of contact for citizens that visit the offices on Main Street. He will play an important part in the Sheriff's plans for expanding the department's crime prevention and education efforts, as well as serving as an additional public information officer. Deputy Mann joined the department in 2012, having previously served in a similar capacity with the Troup County Sheriff's Office.
- Tamara Smith was promoted to Community Service clerk, a position that will also place her in service the front lobby of the Sheriff's Office. She will also be tasked with handling first-line customer service work for citizens needing to conduct business in person.

Other moves by Sheriff's Office personnel include:

Investigator Dan Franklin was promoted to Internal Affairs Sergeant for the Enforcement Bureau. Sgt Franklin has served with the Sheriff's Office since 1996, gaining experience as a jail officer and patrolman before being promoted to Investigator in 2000. He worked property crimes for two years before transferring to the crimes against persons unit, where he has been the lead investigator in several successful homicide investigations.

Deputy Kevin Sullens, heretofore the School Resource Officer at West Hall High School, was promoted to Investigator in the Criminal Investigations Division. Investigator Sullens joined the department in 2008, after serving with the Georgia Department of Transportation Enforcement Division and the Gainesville Police Department. He served in the Uniform Patrol Division prior to becoming an SRO/K-9 handler in 2008, and also serves on the department's SWAT team.

Deputy Ben Williams was appointed to fill the School Resource Officer vacancy at West Hall High School. It's a familiar assignment for Deputy Williams, who served in the same capacity from 2005-2008. He first joined the Sheriff's Office in 1997, serving first in the jail before moving to the Patrol Division, eventually attaining the rank of Corporal/Field Training Officer.

Deputy Chris Alford was appointed to School Resource Officer for East Hall Middle School. Deputy Alford joined the department in 2007 after serving in the Georgia Department of Corrections for 5 years. Initially serving in the jail, he has been assigned to patrol for the past two years and is still a member of the SERT team for the jail.

Deputy Lane Acrey was appointed to the training division, after serving in Court Services since 2008. Deputy Acrey joined the Sheriff's Office after retiring from the Gainesville Police Department in 2007 with 25 years of service.

"It's my pleasure to announce these appointments and promotions," said Sheriff Couch. "These Officers are of the caliber that will help us, as an agency, deliver the highest level of professional law enforcement services to our community."