



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PURCELLVILLE MOURNS PASSING OF RETIRED POLICE CHIEF DARRYL SMITH

PURCELLVILLE, Va. April 27, 2020 — The Town of Purcellville community is grieving over the loss of former Purcellville Chief of Police Darryl “Smitty” Smith. He passed away yesterday, April 26th, 2020, during the early morning hours at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife Maria of 50 years, and two sons, Darryl and Kevin. His daughter, Rena, previously passed in 2006.

Darryl’s life and career exemplified a genuine commitment to public service. He began his law enforcement career in 1973 with the Herndon Police Department at age 22, and was the first African American officer hired by the Town of Herndon. Darryl spent 22 years in supervisory or command level positions, retiring as a Captain in October 2004 after 31 years of dedicated service. Following his career as a law enforcement officer, he continued to serve the Herndon community tutoring children as a member of Vecinio Unidos/Neighbors United, as a member of the Rotary Club of Herndon, and as a member of the Herndon Town Council, also serving as the vice mayor.

On January 31, 2006, Darryl was sworn in as Police Chief for the Town of Purcellville. For nine years he devoted his heart and soul to serving the Purcellville community, retiring on April 1, 2015.

Darryl’s accomplishments were exemplified in his commitment and enthusiasm to the communities he served. He was instrumental in both Herndon and Purcellville for developing community and youth engagement programs. Darryl was active in the Purcellville community, working and communicating with the youth, residents, and businesses. While with the Purcellville Police Department, he was recognized with the 2007 Virginia Municipal League (VML) achievement award for youth engagement, and in 2009 his department received the Webber Seavey Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for his youth engagement programs. “Chief Smith was well respected among his peers in the law enforcement profession. The incredible work he did in regards to community engagement will be his legacy. He made a difference for so many of our youth”, said Purcellville Chief of Police Cynthia McAlister.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser stated, “I am deeply saddened by the death of Darryl Smith, Purcellville’s former Chief of Police, who embraced and epitomized community policing. He was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to secure our citizens and to garner community trust.”

Darryl enjoyed fishing, time with family and friends, and it will be his gentle manner, and his kindness to everyone he met that will be sorely missed.

The Town of Purcellville flags will be flown at half-staff in his honor beginning today, April 27, 2020.

The Town of Purcellville, Virginia

“Purcellville-your small Town, where history and progress intersect and people prosper,” is an award-winning town of over 10,000 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 50 miles west of Washington, DC. Having received the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities, Purcellville continues to be honored for its green initiatives with most recently being the Tree City USA recipient for the 12th year. The Town was reaffirmed as a AAA rated community by S&P Global Ratings, the highest credit rating possible, and is ranked “Safest City” in Virginia in 2020. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, which has been converted to a multi-use trail from Alexandria, VA to Purcellville, the Town has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiques, equestrian activities, farmer’s markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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