

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CHIEF KEITH DEWITT FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF WAITE HILL WORKING FOR AND LEADING THE WAITE HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, Chief Keith DeWitt began his career with the Waite Hill Police Department as a part-time Patrol Officer in the year 1994, was hired by the Village as a full-time Patrol Officer on January 1, 1996, was promoted to rank of Sergeant in May of 1998, was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant of the Waite Hill Police Department in October of 2006, and ascended to the rank of Chief of the Waite Hill Police Department in February of 2012; and

WHEREAS, Chief Keith DeWitt has faithfully served the Village of Waite Hill as a law enforcement officer for more than 25 years, and officially retired from the position of Chief of Police on June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Robert A. Ranallo lead the Village officials by describing Chief DeWitt's service as follows:

Keith's extraordinary service and commitment to the residents of Waite Hill cannot be overstated. Since 1994, he has consistently conducted himself with the utmost professionalism, treating all he encountered along the way with dignity and respect. During his 10 years as Chief, Keith was a strong and steady leader who led by example and backed his words with action. A personal friend and confidante, Keith made all of us better. His presence will be greatly missed but we wish him all the best in his retirement.

WHEREAS, Ryan W. Cox, President of Council commented upon the Chief's approach to serving Waite Hill:

Chief Keith DeWitt cares deeply about the Village of Waite Hill and its residents. In his tenure he has had to make some really tough decisions, but has always done the right thing. Without question he puts the long-term interests of the Village and its employees first. Chief DeWitt has cultivated a first-class police department and a stable working environment for all employees, for which we are grateful. He has raised the bar for all of his successors. I am proud to call Chief Keith DeWitt a colleague and a friend.

WHEREAS, Councilman Richard Steudel thanked Chief DeWitt as follows:

Keith: Thank you for your long and much valued service to the Village and its residents. Your patience, people skills, and professionalism were sometimes tested over the years. They were always forefront, and it is greatly appreciated. I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

WHEREAS, Vice President of Council Sam Knezevic summarized Chief DeWitt's contributions to the Village by saying:

Chief Keith DeWitt has brought professionalism and stability to the Waite Hill Police Department. His service has been exemplary, and he efficiently upgraded the department. Beside his role as police chief, Keith has worn many hats and has always helped with a variety of tasks in the Village. He epitomizes what it means to be a team player, and I feel privileged to have worked with him. Best wishes for your retirement Keith, and enjoy those classic cars!

WHEREAS, the new Chief of Police, Carl Dondorfer, honored Chief DeWitt as follows:

True leadership lies in guiding others to success – in ensuring that everyone is performing at their best. Thank you, Chief DeWitt, for your leadership, guidance, commitment, and dedication to the Waite Hill Police Department and all of the Village of Waite Hill.

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Marcia A. Merritt recounted her experience of Chief DeWitt’s value:

Chief Dewitt will be greatly missed. He always answered my inquiries and took the time to add relevant Village history to his answer, helping me to fully understand the situation. Chief DeWitt made the Village feel like a very safe place to live. Keith is well respected by everyone he served.

WHEREAS, Councilman Courtenay Taplin described the Chief’s tenure as follows:

Keith has served our village with distinction, commitment, and always good humor. He is a consummate professional making Waite Hill a very much-admired community. I wish my friend Keith all the best in his retirement.

WHEREAS, Council Member Abby Hiltzley expressed her appreciation of Chief DeWitt’s service to the Village as follows:

Chief DeWitt: You have always made my family and me feel valued, welcome, and safe in the oasis we call “Waite Hill”. You navigated the dynamics of this unique and treasured village graciously in your career and your leadership built a strong team of officers as a great legacy. Thank you for your positive attitude, discernment, and devotion to our community. All the best to you.

WHEREAS, Service Director Bob Haynik, a life-long friend of Chief DeWitt, commented:

Keith and I have been friends since the age of five. I will surely miss him and his humor. The Village was lucky to get such a dedicated policeman, police chief and overall great-hearted man. All good things come to an end, but moving forward the village has acquired an outstanding replacement in Carl Dondorfer! I wish my friend Keith the best in his future endeavors, whatever they may be!

WHEREAS, Village Law Director Stephen L. Byron noted the value of Chief DeWitt’s public service as follows:

For the past quarter-century Chief Keith DeWitt proved that he was born to be the Chief of Police in Waite Hill. His calm and pleasant demeanor, incisive mind, quick wit, and ability to solve problems put the Chief in the top 1% of police officers in the world. This Resolution documents how high the Chief’s bosses, co-workers and subordinates esteem his abilities. We wish for him, countless enjoyable retirement years with good friends, family and loved ones.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council, on behalf of the residents of the Village of Waite Hill desire to express their gratitude to Chief Keith DeWitt for his dedication to protecting and serving the Waite Hill community, and to thank and honor Chief Keith DeWitt for his quarter-century of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF WAITE HILL, LAKE COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor and Council, on behalf of all the residents of the Village of Waite Hill, Ohio, and the Village’s administration hereby express their sincere gratitude to Chief Keith DeWitt for his outstanding public service and dedication to the Village of Waite Hill, Ohio, and thereby spread this Resolution upon the records of the Council of the Village of Waite Hill.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of Council shall forthwith transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Chief Keith DeWitt, in honor of his service to his community.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____, 2021

Ryan Cox, Council President

Submitted to the Mayor for his approval on the _____ day of _____, 2021

Approved by the Mayor on the ____ day of _____, 2021

ATTEST:

Robbi Laps, Clerk-Treasurer

Robert A. Ranallo, Mayor

COUNCIL:

Ryan Cox, President of Council

Sam Knezevic, Vice President of Council

Abby Hiltzley

Marcia A. Merritt

Karl Scheucher

Richard Steudel, Jr.

Courtenay Taplin