

**City of Lexington
Press Release**

I am pleased to announce that Alfred S. Thomas, Jr. has accepted the offer of City Manager Jon Ellestad to be Lexington's next Police Chief. Mr. Thomas is a 20-year member of the Lynchburg, VA Police Department where he has held the rank of Captain and Chief Staff Officer. He has also been the Administrative Division Commander and the Captain of the South Division among the many positions he has held over the past twenty years. Mr. Thomas is also a veteran of the U. S. Air Force, holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Averett University, is a graduate of the Professional Executive Leadership School at the University of Richmond and the Administrative Officer Management Program at North Carolina State University.

Both the panel of Chiefs (5 Police Chiefs from across the state) and Citizens panel were very impressed with Mr. Thomas' leadership skills, proven commitment to the integration of the Police Department in the fabric of the community and to his personal commitment to the community. I believe that Mr. Thomas will be an excellent Chief for our department and the community as a whole. He brings a wealth of skills and experiences to Lexington that can help lead an already excellent department to even greater heights. I am pleased that we were able to attract a person of his caliber to our City.

Mr. Thomas' wife, Dorothy, supervises the Employment Services Unit of the Lynchburg Social Services Department and he has two children, Malcolm (15) and Meghan (12). He will begin his duties on April 5, 2010.

**T. Jon Ellestad
City Manager**

March 11, 2010