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Former Norristown police chief Richet takes chief deputy spot at Montco Sheriff's Office

Norristown, Pa., (May 15, 2014) – Retired Norristown Police Department Chief Willie Richet is now the new chief deputy for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, filling the vacancy left by Alfred J. Ricci when he retired in January 2014. Sheriff Russell Bono made the announcement during a press conference at the Courthouse on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

"It gives me a great honor and pleasure to accept this position," Richet said. "I love Norristown. I love Montgomery County. I won't let you down."

A long-time Norristown borough resident since 1951, Richet served in the NPD for over 40 years before retiring as acting chief in 2013. He has received many awards for his dedicated service to the NPD, the Borough of Norristown, and the U.S. Army.

Richet received his training in Police Science and Administration at Montgomery County Community College and Temple University. He also trained at the Cape May County Driving Academy in Cape May, New Jersey.

Richet started his career in the NPD on February 19, 1973 where he was eventually awarded "Police Officer of the Year" by both the Norristown Exchange Club in 1981 and the American Federation of Police in 1982. He was promoted to corporal in 1984 and in 1992 he was given the "Outstanding Law Enforcement Award" by the NPD. Richet was appointed to head the NPD Community Relations Division in 1993 and was later selected to head the Criminal Investigation and Juvenile Division of the NPD in 1994. The NPD promoted Richet to Administrative Lieutenant in August 1999 and then to the rank of Captain, while also serving as the Deputy Chief. He retired from the NPD on February 19, 2013 but was called in later that year to serve as Acting Chief after the retirement of Chief Russell Bono.

A deep commitment to the borough motivated Richet to co-found the Norristown Police Athletic League in 1973, where he serves on the board of directors. Norristown PAL provides a place for hundreds of youth to stay off the streets every year by competing in sports and getting help with their homework.

Prior to his long career with the NPD, Richet graduated from Norristown High School in 1967 followed by work as a machine operator until he joined the U.S. Army. He served 14 months in Vietnam as a Platoon Sergeant and received numerous commendations including the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal with 1st and 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.

Richet is active in many professional and local community organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #31 where he served as treasurer for 18 years, and the Montgomery County Black Law Enforcement Officers Association serving as Vice President. Richet is a board member for the Domestic Violence Legal Network, a liaison officer with the Women's Center of Montgomery County and on the MCCWF Committee for a coordinated community response to domestic violence and sexual assault. He is also a member of the Norristown Revitalization Committee sub-committee for recreation and the Chairperson of the Public Safety sub-committee.

Richet is the recipient of many awards for his extraordinary community accomplishments including, the "Outstanding Achievement Award from Pennsylvania State Senator Edwin G. Hull in 1986, the Montgomery County Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission 2003 Community Service Award, and the Norristown Recreation Committee's 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. "Living the Dream Award."

"Willie is absolutely the best candidate I could have chosen," said Bono. "We've worked together for almost 40 years and I trust him. "

Richet resides in Norristown, Pa., with his wife Barbara, who is a retired elementary school principal. They are the parents of five children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

For more information about the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office please visit:

www.montcopa.org/sheriff.

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