

# Proclamation

*Whereas,* Chief Matt Sullivan has been serving the Chapel Hill community with integrity and distinction since July 11, 1988 when he was hired as a public safety officer with the Chapel Hill Police Department while completing his undergraduate degree in Political Science at UNC-Chapel Hill; and

*Whereas,* during his early career with the Town, Matt served as a police officer, firefighter and a DARE officer; and

*Whereas,* while earning his Master's degree in Social Work, Matt served as a substance abuse counselor at UNC, rejoining the Chapel Hill Police Department as a member of the police crisis unit-after graduation; and

*Whereas,* Matt later returned to school to pursue a law degree at North Carolina Central University; and

*Whereas,* he put his law degree to work by serving as one of the Town's Police attorneys which included arguing King vs. the Town of Chapel Hill through the Court of Appeals and the North Carolina Supreme Court; and

*Whereas,* in 2013, Matt was asked to use his considerable skills to help lead the Chapel Hill planning and inspections departments for a few years; and

*Whereas,* from there, he assumed the position of emergency manager for the Town, a position in which he demonstrated the leadership and calm that led to his appointment to the position of Fire Chief; and

*Whereas,* throughout his career, Matt has helped mentor people throughout our community including employees under his watch and the youth in the community who he has counselled, coached and taught; and

*Whereas,* after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Chief Sullivan volunteered and spent several months in New York City providing Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and counseling as part of North Carolina's Triangle Region J Critical Incident Stress Management team; and

*Whereas,* under his leadership, and out of his understanding of the importance of a person's holistic wellbeing, the Chapel Hill Fire Department began a Peer Support Program to address the effect of mental trauma experienced by emergency responders; and

*Whereas,* other CHFD accomplishments under his leadership have included:

- Development and support of the Chapel Hill High School Student Fire Academy which trains local youth for Fire Service careers;
- Development and implementation of our Department's Cancer Prevention Policy; and
- Restructuring some Division and Staff job descriptions within the Department to strengthen efforts in Community Risk Reduction; and

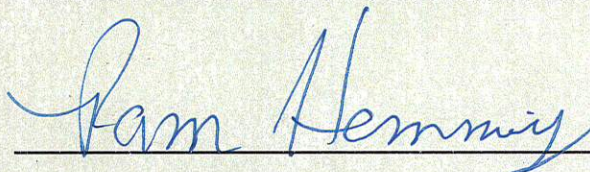
*Whereas,* in 2018, Matt was awarded the Herman Stone award by the Chapel Hill Police Department in recognition of his strong moral character, commitment to service, commitment to the values of fairness and respect for the individual, loyalty to the agency and to the community, and a demonstrated desire to serve people.

*Now, Therefore,* in appreciation of his 32 years of leadership and caring for our community, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, January 29th, 2020 to be

## MATT SULLIVAN DAY

in Chapel Hill and urge everyone to show their appreciation to Matt for all that he has done for our community.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.

  
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