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Fuquay-Varina Police Chief Laura Fahnstock Officially Retires

Fuquay-Varina Police Chief Laura L. Fahnstock officially retired on January 28 after nearly seven years as police chief. She was honored at an event that highlighted her 30-year career in law enforcement bringing officials from around the state, family, and friends together to celebrate her achievements. The event was held at the Fuquay-Varina Arts Center.

Fahnstock was awarded the state's highest honor, the Order of the Longleaf Pine, from the Office of Governor Roy Cooper. The Order of the Longleaf Pine award is bestowed on persons who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through exemplary accomplishments.

Among Fahnstock's many accomplishments, she will be remembered for breaking gender barriers and redefining the role of women in law enforcement. She became the first woman in the Rocky Mount Police Department to be promoted to the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain and served as the first female Police Chief of the Fuquay-Varina Police Department. Chief Fahnstock developed strong community policing programs in Fuquay-Varina that benefited the community. During her 6.5 years as Chief of Police, Fuquay-Varina saw a 42% reduction in violent crime and a 47% reduction in property crime. In 2021, the Town was recognized by MoneyGeek as the #1 safest town in North Carolina and was ranked by SafeWise on the Top #10 List of Safest Places to Live in North Carolina.

Town Manager Adam Mitchell believes Chief Fahnstock helped bring structural improvements that made the Town's police department more cohesive, effective, and modern. "Laura brought several operational and staffing changes that provided efficiencies as the town has grown and changed over the past few years. Her staff has had the opportunity to learn, gain special training, advancements, and have access to improved technology and skills. I believe they are much better equipped and trained because of her vision."

Mayor Blake Massengill said, "While Fahnstock's record as a crime fighter is impressive, Chief Fahnstock will likely be remembered in the Fuquay-Varina community for the strong relationships she built and her personable and transparent approach in working with the public. We have all grown to love her. She will be missed a great deal."

"Serving as police chief here has been one of the great honors of my life," said Fahnstock. "I take with me wonderful memories and friendships. Thank you to the community for working with

me and my leadership team, collaborating in many ways to enhance safety, develop positive police and community relationships, and improve quality of life within our community”

Laura was supported throughout her career by her husband Van to whom she has been married for 29 years, and her daughter Victoria. Without Van and Victoria, Laura believes her career would not have been as successful as it has been, as they have been her support system. Laura and Van will continue to reside in Fuquay-Varina. Laura plans on traveling and will remain active in Fuquay-Varina and support the Fuquay-Varina Police as a private citizen.

Read more about [Laura Fahnestock's 30 Year Law Enforcement Career](#)