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Siloam Springs Police Chief Hired

November 18, 2014 (Siloam Springs, Ark.) The City of Siloam Springs announces the hiring of a new Police Chief, James Wilmeth of New Mexico. Wilmeth replaces Chief Joe Garret, who tendered his retirement in October, and will begin employment on Monday, December 8th.

Wilmeth has been in law enforcement for over thirty years and will make the transition to Siloam Springs with his wife Sheila and other family members. He has been the Undersheriff in Lea County, New Mexico, since July 2012 and is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of the Southwest where he teaches Principles of Criminal Justice, International Criminal and Civil Justice Systems, and Introduction to Law Enforcement and Criminal Law.

He started with the Lea County Sherriff's Office in 1995 and has also served as the Interim Chief of Police in Eunice, New Mexico. Additionally, Wilmeth served as a Special Agent in the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command and was a Voice Intercept Analyst for the US Army.

"I'm humbled to have been chosen to come and serve this community. Siloam Springs spoke to us the first time we drove in here and I can't wait to get started", Wilmeth said.

Public Safety Director Greg Neely added, "Chief Wilmeth brings a wealth of knowledge, skill and ability that will help continue to ascend the Siloam Springs Police Department to new heights. I am most pleased that we were able to land a candidate of this caliber for our City and for our Department."

Wilmeth will be in attendance for the new Police Department's Grand Opening Saturday, November 22 at 100 US Highway 412 West at 11:00 a.m..