

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID W. HARRISON JR.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 16th, 2013

SHERIFF HARRISON WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Sheriff David Harrison Jr. announces that he will not be seeking re-election as Sheriff of Columbia County, although he will be finishing his term through December 31st of this year. As he continues in his thirtieth year with the Sheriff's Office, he and his wife Kelly made the decision together no to seek re-election. After telling his family last week, he contacted Greg Fingar of the Republican Party, Matt Torrey with the Conservative Party and John Miller with the Independence Party and thanked them for their support and told them that I would not be seeking re-election. He also thanks the Board of Supervisors for their support which is very important to the success of the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Harrison said, "While working with the Board of Supervisors and the men and women of the Sheriff's Office, I am proud of what we have accomplished during my service as Sheriff. Everything we have done has been to improve our ability to better serve the people of our county, as civilian, law enforcement and corrections members of the office. The people of Columbia County should be proud of these men and women who have dedicated their careers and their lives to the Sheriff's Office and to public safety."

During his service as Sheriff, the Office has seen many changes:

Awarded NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Awarded Corrections Accreditation.

Opened Sheriff's Office satellite offices in various areas of the county.

Opened the first Sheriff's Office 24/7 Sub-Station in Hillsdale.

Re-established cooperative and good working relationships with other local, state and federal law enforcement and public safety agencies.

Established and increased school safety interaction and assistance countywide.

Obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in state and federal grants to fund special public safety projects and equipment to modernize the Sheriff's Office.

Developed a modern serious accident/incident scene investigation unit utilizing the Total Station Laser Program.

Equipped all Sheriff's patrols with patrol rifles and mobile data terminal computers.

Continued to ensure revenue to the county General Fund each year of more than one million

dollars through corrections, civil enforcement, security services and law enforcement activities while keeping the entire Sheriff's Office budget below 7% of the overall county budget.

Established the Senior Safety Net Program in our county.

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Established the first law enforcement Explorers Post in Columbia County.
Established Project Lifesaver in our county.
Increased the Law Enforcement K-9 Program to include a Patrol/Explosives detection dog.
Established Operation Safe Child in our county.
Increased training for Deputy Sheriff's and Correction Officers.
Established a county wide In-Service training open to all part-time police officers in our county.
Established the first Sheriff's Office informational website.
Worked with other county agencies and officials to establish a Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigators position dedicated to investigating welfare fraud with the Department of Social Services.
Established an Inmate Work Crew which can assist municipalities in various light work details such as cleaning debris and garbage from roadways and other locations.
Established a Chaplain program to provide support for members of the Sheriff's Office and for inmates in the county jail.
Worked with Columbia County Human Services to provide substance abuse services in the jail.
Established an inmate Horticulture Program at the public safety facility.
Working with the Columbia Greene Humane Society, established a "New Leash on Life" inmate cell dog program.

Sheriff Harrison added, "It is with this in mind that I support the efforts of Sheriff's Office Captain David Bartlett to carry on after I end my term as Sheriff. David Bartlett began his career as a Deputy Sheriff Jailer 29 years ago and worked his way up through the ranks to now manage the Law Enforcement Division. He has overseen the accreditation program and is chairman of the county Safe Schools Committee. He has been instrumental in all aspects of the Office and has the education, experience and dedication to hold this very important position. He is a volunteer firefighter, little league and special olympics coach and will make a great Sheriff.

" I am honored to have served the people of Columbia County as their Sheriff and look forward to the next phase of our life. "