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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Pittsylvania County Administration**

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## **Pittsylvania County hires Director of Public Safety**

*~ Chris Slemp receives promotion to  
Director of Public Safety ~*

**CHATHAM** – Effective October 1, 2018, Chris Slemp was made the Director of Public Safety for Pittsylvania County. Mr. Slemp was hired in November 2017 as the Public Safety Coordinator. This position was created by the Board of Supervisors to oversee the County's Fire, EMS, Fire Marshal services, and to coordinate programming and training among the County's 25 volunteer fire and rescue agencies.

With the retirement of Jim Davis at the end of June, Mr. Slemp was made the Interim Director of Public Safety. After advertising for the position, it was determined that Mr. Slemp was the best suited applicant to fill the role. "Chris really stood out from all applicants as the most qualified professional. The fact that we already know him and his work made it a very easy decision to offer the job to him on a permanent basis," said County Administrator David Smitherman.

Mr. Slemp was a Fire Investigator before he came to the County but has an extensive background in Public Safety. He formerly served as the captain of a volunteer rescue squad, the Director of Public Safety in Franklin County, a Fire Marshal in Hanover County and Deputy Fire Chief in Horry County, South Carolina. Chris recently completed his fourth year of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. He is a National Registered Paramedic, Virginia Certified Fire Fighter, Certified Fire Investigator with the International Association of Arson Investigators, and has certifications and experience in emergency management.

"I really enjoy working with the men and women of the Public Safety services in Pittsylvania County, and enjoy my relationship with the volunteers in the county. We have a really dedicated group of folks here," said Mr. Slemph. "I look forward to building on that relationship and continuing to improve our Public Safety system. We exist for the benefit of our citizens and they deserve the best we can give them."

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