

To: JIC Residents

From: Commissioners Dick Busto and Chip Block

Re: **Public Organization Meeting April 20, 2023, of JIC Committee to Screen and Select Finalist Candidates**

Date: April 17, 2023

The first meeting of the JIC Committee to Screen and Select Finalist Candidates for JIC Chief of Police will be held April 20, 2023, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in the Village of Tequesta Council Chambers at **345 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta.**

This is an organization meeting. It is simply for the Committee to agree on the process and plan to select a candidate. It is not yet time for comments regarding candidate advocacy. However, public comments on the plan and process are welcome.

The facility seats 100 persons. Participants unable to attend in person may join by **Zoom at this link:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84475508178?pwd=TVM4YXZiOFN3V0lmbmtBdVVOVOTWdrUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7550 8178

Passcode: 691777

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,84475508178# US

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

Meeting ID: 844 7550 8178

We refer residents to the following FAQ on the process. The FAQ will also be posted on the JIC Town website. The FAQ will be updated as the process requires.

FAQ Concerning the Selection Process for a new JIC Chief of Police

When did Chief Pruitt announce his retirement?

Chief Pruitt announced his intention to retire in an email sent to Commissioners and JIC staff on April 6, 2023. Another email to residents followed on April 8. Chief Pruitt asked that his last day be May 5, 2023, the 34th anniversary of being sworn in as a Police Officer in Ashland, Kentucky.

How long has Chief Pruitt been serving Jupiter Inlet Colony?

Sixteen years. He was hired as a part time officer in 2007; he was promoted to detective in 2008 and lieutenant in early 2011. Chief Pruitt was made captain in November 2011 and named Chief in 2013.

What are the plans to replace Chief Pruitt?

Under the Town's charter, Mayor Dan has sole authority to hire Chief Pruitt's replacement. However, given the importance of the position to the Town, Mayor Dan has created a five-person Committee to select a candidate or candidates for JIC Chief of Police.

Who are the Committee members?

- Two senior commissioners, Dick Busto and Chip Block (co-chairs).
- Tony Prosser and Pam Rauch, respected residents of JIC with strong business backgrounds
- Chief Gustavo Medina, Chief of Police, Tequesta, a JIC law-enforcement partner

Will the Committee be assisted in its work?

Yes, Town Counsel Bill Doney will provide legal advice. The Committee will also seek advice from others, including residents, who have expertise applicable to the process, (labor law, human resource management, law enforcement, and so on).

What are the Committee's responsibilities?

The purpose of the Committee is to seek and screen applicants, do professional background checks, and interview candidates and come up with a short list of qualified candidates.

Once there is a slate of qualified candidates, who makes the choice?

Once candidates have been fully vetted, the Committee will present the finalist(s) to the Town Commission which will then vote to select a Chief.

Does the Committee have any other responsibilities?

Yes. It will also make recommendations to the Mayor and Commission on police department structure and operations.

Will residents have a voice in the process?

Absolutely. One, all Committee meetings will be held in public and all US, Florida, PBC and JIC laws and ordinances will be followed. Given residents' interest in the process, we have arranged with the Village of Tequesta to hold the Committee meetings in their Council chambers. It holds 100 persons and has state of the art technology so that all can see and hear.

Two, residents are welcome to submit commentary and recommendations to the Committee co-chairs via email at blockc@jupiterinletcolony.org and bustor@jupiterinletcolony.org. Comments will be distributed to the entire committee.

Why is JIC following this process to hire a Police Chief?

The Chief of Police is a critically important position in JIC, as evidenced by the wide range of opinions expressed to date. The Mayor and the Committee appreciate the community-minded culture of JIC and residents' desire to balance strong day-to-day security with a spirit of neighborliness. The Committee will do everything possible to ensure the integrity and transparency of both the process and outcome.

Will the job description be publicly posted?

Yes, on JIC website.

How long will the process take?

Understanding the importance of the position, the Committee is moving expeditiously. Screening, doing background checks, and interviewing candidates takes time. We will proceed as quickly as those steps allow, but we will not compromise the process.

If no Chief of Police has been hired by the time Chief Pruitt leaves on May 5, who will assume that role? Mayor Dan has asked Chief Pruitt to stay until a new Chief is hired and Chief Pruitt has agreed.