



# CITY OF PLAINFIELD

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *New Police Director Named for City of Plainfield*

#### *Former retired Captain. James T. Abney is Plainfield's New Police Director.*

On Wednesday, January 22, Mayor Adrian O. Mapp and the City of Plainfield named former retired Captain James T. Abney as the new Police Director for the City of Plainfield.

The position of Police Director had been vacant since June of 2021, when then Director Lisa Burgess resigned. Until the city found someone to fill the position, Mayor Mapp named Captain David Guarino as the acting Director.

Understanding how critical the position of Police Director is to the quality of life in Plainfield, the administration undertook a comprehensive search for someone to fill the position. Several candidates were interviewed by a team comprised of several members of the administration who then made a recommendation to the Mayor.

Director James T. Abney is a Plainfield resident who has proudly served the City of Plainfield's law enforcement division for over twenty-six years.

Director Abney has a thorough understanding of public safety awareness honed over his twenty-six-year career in law enforcement. He became a Sergeant in 2005, Lieutenant in 2012, and Captain on January 19, 2021. Abney's extensive training and experience include working in the *Patrol and COP units*, *The City of Plainfield's Planning Board*, the *Union County Prosecutor's Office Child Advocacy Unit*, and the *Criminal Investigation Bureau*, amongst other demanding public safety jobs.

"I am excited about Plainfield's future," said Director Abney, "and I look forward to working with community stakeholders to ensure each resident has a voice in the direction of the Police Department. Traffic Enforcement and Crime reduction are my main focus over the first 100 days. Over the next few weeks, citizens should see an increased vigilance in the enforcement of traffic laws, with a concentration on speeding in particular. I feel that the men and women of the Plainfield Police Department are the best in the land, and I know that the Mapp Administration wants to provide them with the necessary tools to succeed".

Mayor Mapp and Director Abney have voiced a collective vision that includes a continued focus on an exceptional quality of life for all residents by lowering crime rates and reducing police response times by utilizing increased camera surveillance and new technology. The continued nurturing of our youth through the Department's mentoring program remains a priority, as well as getting the department to one-hundred-fifty police officers.

"I am very pleased that the team tasked with making this important decision recommended the appointment of James Abney. Director James Abney has distinguished himself as a career Police Officer, and he is a lifelong Plainfield resident. He will ensure that community policing is a priority and that our neighborhoods get the attention they deserve. I am fully confident that our Police Department will move in the right direction and continue to excel under his leadership." - Mayor Adrian O. Mapp.

Director Abney has a Master's degree in Administrative Science. His educational background, combined with his twenty-six years of experience, makes him uniquely qualified to tackle the demanding role as Plainfield's Police Director. The Director has been recognized for his work locally and nationally, including the TOP COPS Award to exemplar law enforcement officers, presented by President George W. Bush for his actions, above and beyond the call of duty.