



Tupelo Police Department

Chief Bart Aguirre

June 1, 2021

Mayor Jason Shelton:

Please accept this letter as my official retirement announcement. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for allowing me to serve as Chief of Police to our community.

My career started as a patrol officer in 1985 with the Tupelo Police Department. I always had a desire in my heart to be Chief someday but I never thought it would come true until March 2013. That day you offered me the job to become Chief. Once you were elected Mayor, I knew God had opened new door of opportunities for me. My prayers were answered.

These past seven and a half years have given me happiness, sadness and a pride of accomplishment. We'll never forget the pain we shared at the loss of Sgt. Gale Stauffer and wounding of Officer Joseph Maher. Or the destruction that laid waste by the tornado in 2014. Both of these back to back incidents came out of the chute with such vengeance they brought the whole city to its knees. Without God's grace, plus your support and leadership, our strategic planning, mission and vision statement would have suffered.

Being Chief has allowed me great fulfillment. My greatest accomplishment was overseeing the construction of our new police headquarters. My vision for the new headquarters started early in 2006 when the Tupelo Police Department partnered with the FBI and assigned Task Force Officers to work 'Operation Secondhand Smoke.' A criminal organization with deep roots right here in Tupelo. The organization was a network of schemers trafficking in contraband cigarettes. It was dismantled and this allowed the FBI/ Tupelo's Task Force Officers to seize the warehouse/property and become the site of its new headquarters. I was assigned to work as a Task Force Officer with the FBI and participate with the criminal investigation. This was a great mile stone in my career.

God has blessed me with 36 years of service. Tupelo is a progressive and safe city to live in because of the officers hired and trained to serve our citizens. I am proud to have served with each and every one of our administration leaders and employees. My official end of watch will be June 30th. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Chief. I will cherish the memories.

Sincerely,