



PEARL POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Nick McLendon, Chief of Police

January 24, 2025

Hiring of Officer Jeremy Rast.

On January 21, 2025, the City of Pearl hired Jeremy Rast as a Police Officer, based on the Chief's recommendation. As previously acknowledged by Jeremy, he made a mistake at his former place of employment while serving as a rookie Police Officer. Jeremy publicly admitted to and apologized for his actions. Since this incident in June of 2024, Jeremy has been sidelined from law enforcement. As Chief of Police, I have professionally and personally navigated Jeremy through some of his brightest and darkest days.

I believe that Jeremy has a servant's heart and possesses a profound desire to serve the community where he was born and raised. While I acknowledge and do not condone his previous actions or statements, I do not believe that he should be condemned for the remainder of his professional career.

My expectations for officers within the Pearl Police Department remain steadfast: Constitutional, Proactive, and Accountable Policing. As with every member of our organization, including myself and Jeremy, accountability is crucial for maintaining transparency and legitimacy within the community we serve. I remain unwavering in my commitment to holding everyone accountable for their actions.

Because of the potential public scrutiny surrounding this hire, the recommendation to employ Jeremy Rast was not taken lightly. After countless meetings, thoughtful consideration, and prayers, I felt compelled to give Jeremy Rast another opportunity in law enforcement. This decision and recommendation were made with careful deliberation and were not made on a whim. I want the citizens of Pearl, Mississippi, to know that I have an open-door policy. If any citizen wishes to voice their concerns regarding any issues within the Pearl Police Department, please schedule a meeting.

We should acknowledge that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. I am thankful for the grace and mercy shown to each of us instead of the wrath we deserve. Oftentimes, in our human nature, we tend to scrutinize everyone else's sins with a microscope while viewing our own with a telescope.

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6: 14-15

Nick McLendon
Chief of Police

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