

July 8, 2022

To those who love Atlantic Beach and ABPD:

For all, I am sharing this heartfelt letter from Atlantic Beach Police Department Chief Vic Gualillo on the occasion of yesterday's sentencing of the man responsible for an egregious assault on Officer Tim Stafford, a dedicated, experienced, career public servant. You may have seen it elsewhere.

Most of us recall the day in July 2020 when Tim was attacked and fellow officers responded to save his life and to conduct investigation. We recall how the news of the assault reverberated through our community and how residents and others were so generous in their support.

As Chief wrote in his letter, we also thank the professional efforts of the law enforcement community, the State Attorney's Office, and Judge London Kite.

While we acknowledge this sentencing is important and we share in the hope for the redemption of the perpetrator, it is Tim's distinguished career, along with his grace and forgiveness, that will leave an indelible mark on all of us. Tim is an incredible man.

With this chapter now closed, we direct our thoughts and support toward Tim and his family. In that effort, we also commit to recognizing that police officers daily walk the line between good and evil, and they daily make sacrifices on our behalf.

Thank you to Tim and the fine officers of the ABPD and all officers who serve in this most noble profession. God Bless them.

In Gratitude,

Ellen Glasser