



# *Town of Belhaven*

"Birth Place of the Intracoastal Waterway"

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## **Town of Belhaven Addresses Police Staff Shortages**

Police Chief Chris Kelly has announced his intent to resign from the Belhaven Police Department to explore other opportunities in law enforcement. No date has been set for this transition. Kelly was promoted to Chief in December 2022.

This announcement comes at a time when the department is already experiencing staff shortages. Staff shortages in law enforcement are a growing concern across the county, especially in small towns.

There are no plans to close the Belhaven Police Department. Protection of the citizens of the Town of Belhaven remains a priority of the Belhaven Police Department and Town Council.

There are immediate, short-term, and long-term needs to be considered. The Town has engaged a consultant who specializes in law enforcement to facilitate a conversation that considers all options to address the needs of the Belhaven community and its police department. All options will be explored and considered as the staff, department, Town Council, and citizens work together to plan for future needs in the community.

The Town of Belhaven is fortunate to have a department of professional law enforcement officers who take pride in their work and their service to the Belhaven community.