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Columbus Police Department Mourns the Passing of Former Police Chief Jim Wetherington

The Columbus Police Department is deeply saddened to announce the passing of former Police Chief Jim Wetherington, who passed away earlier today. Chief Wetherington dedicated more than three decades to public service, beginning his career with the department in September 1959. He rose through the ranks, serving as a Patrolman, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Commander before being appointed Chief of Police in 1981. He served as Chief until his retirement in 1995.

Following his retirement, Chief Wetherington continued his service to the state and community. He was appointed to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles in 1995 and later became Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections in 1999, serving for four years. In 2006, he was elected as the 67th Mayor of Columbus and was sworn into office on January 2, 2007.

"Chief Wetherington was a respected leader who left a lasting impact on this department and our city," said Chief Stoney Mathis. "I had the privilege of meeting him and learning from his leadership. His example continues to influence how I serve in this role today."

Chief Wetherington's dedication to public service and his community will not be forgotten. The Columbus Police Department extends its deepest condolences to his wife, Mrs. Shirley B. Wetherington, their three children, and all who knew and admired him.



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