



Governor Nathan Deal
Office of the Governor



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Office of Communications
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Deal appoints police chief for temporary post at Augusta YDC

Gov. Nathan Deal announced today that he has appointed Gary Jones, the chief of police for Sardis in Burke County, to be a liaison to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner L. Gale Buckner. During this special three-month assignment, Jones will report directly to Buckner and will lead the Augusta Youth Development Campus in Augusta. Sardis Mayor Preston Conner and the Sardis City Council have granted Jones a leave of absence so he can serve as the liaison to the commissioner. His appointment starts Monday.

"After meeting with Chief Jones, I know he's the right person to implement the reforms necessary to safeguard and to improve conditions at the Augusta YDC," Deal said. "He has a record of success in law enforcement, and I appreciate his willingness to lend his time and his expertise to this endeavor."

Buckner said, "Chief Jones's extensive law enforcement experience and leadership skills will be great assets as we strengthen security, operations, and staff development and training at the Augusta YDC."

Gary Jones, Liaison to the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

Jones has more than 25 years of law enforcement experience. Since Jones's appointment as chief of police for Sardis six months ago, there has been a 60 percent drop in crime. He has modernized the department by adding staff, creating a canine unit, and purchasing the first new fleet in 15 years. He has also dramatically improved community relations through innovative community policing efforts. Before leading the Sardis police force, Jones served in a variety of supervisory positions in the Richmond and Columbia county sheriffs' departments where his duties ranged from uniform patrol, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigations and DUI enforcement, vice and narcotics, and criminal investigations. While working in Richmond County, he received numerous awards including for excellent duty, meritorious service, and lifesaving. In 1989, he was the first recipient of the exemplary service award from the Law Enforcement Television Network for his response to an armed robbery in which the suspects took nine hostages. Also in 1989, he was recognized as Deputy of the Year in Columbia County. He lives in Columbia County with his wife and four children. He is a member of Old Union Baptist Church.

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