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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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MAYOR REDD AND THE CITY OF CAMDEN MOURN THE LOSS OF FORMER POLICE CHIEF GEORGE PUGH

CAMDEN, NJ – “On behalf of the City of Camden and its residents we deeply mourn the loss of one of our own, former Camden Police Chief George D. Pugh (aka Bobby Pugh),” said Mayor Dana L. Redd. Bobby Pugh was born in Camden, lived in the Parkside community and led a long, distinguished policing career. He supported and advocated for the Camden Police Athletic League. He was fond of sports and particularly basketball where he even participated in the City’s summer leagues. Bobby Pugh was proud of the uniform he put on, his position as a police officer and his hometown of Camden.

George Pugh was hired by the City as a Camden Police Officer in 1965. He served Camden residents in the name of public safety for almost 32 years. Chief Pugh ascended the ranks from Officer to Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. In 1988 he was appointed to the title of Police Chief by Mayor Melvin R. Primas Jr. and after serving as the City’s Chief for eight years until retiring in 1996.

Chief Pugh was truly ahead of his time. As chief, he was known to be a tremendous motivator and for being fair. He had a unique ability for evaluating his personnel and recognized how to get the most out of his officers. Chief always wanted to make sure the communities needs were met. He also made concentrated efforts to make sure the police force was diverse and represented the community they served.

Chief Pugh initiated many community policing practices now used today. He believed in strong community relations and required his officers to patrol the neighborhoods of the City. Upon his retirement, Pugh stated in an interview that he was proud of the department’s efforts to move towards a more “community-oriented policing” philosophy that encouraged the establishment of partnerships with the residents to enhance public safety initiatives. “I can confidently say Chief Pugh would be proud of the City’s current policing efforts as Camden is now being held up as a national model for community policing,” said Mayor Redd.

In recognition of Camden Police Chief George D. Pugh’s passing, Mayor Redd announced the City of Camden will fly flags at half-staff at all municipal buildings until the day of his service. Mayor Redd passes along her appreciation for his unwavering dedication to the City of Camden in addition to sending deepest condolences to his family and friends.

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